

FOURTH DAY

Friday 9 May 2014

DRAFT HANSARD

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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Sarufa M. Haro

Principal Parliamentary Reporter

FOURTH DAY

Friday 9 May 2014

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

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

Sitting suspended at 10:03 a.m..

The Speaker again resumed the Chair at 10:30 a.m., and invited the Governor of Morobe, **Hon Kelly Naru** to to say Prayers:

‘God strong tumas, Papa bilong Bikpela bilong mipla Jisas Kraist. Yu stap long Heven Neim bilong yu mas stap holi, Maus bilong yu ol I bihainim long heven olsem tasol mipela olgeta i mas i bihainim long graun tu. God Papa long dispel dei, gavman bilong dispel graun yu putim i kamap long hanmak bilong ol pipol bilong yu . Mipela ol dispel Memba mipela stap pinis insait long dispela Haus na mipela bai go insait long mekim planti ol gutpela strongpela toktok long strongim ol pipol bilong yu insait long dispela kantri.

Papa God, mipela askim yu, wanem kain rong na tingting nogut na pasin nogut mipela i mekim long dispel wik ikam insait long neim bilong Kraiss yu ken lusim nogut bilong mipela na pulmapim mipela waintaim gutpela bilong yu. Yu givim mipela gutpela tingting na save.

Yu stiaim gut Spika blong mipela long em i ken ronim gut dispela Haus. Yu stap waintaim Praim Minista na Deputi Praim Minista blong mipela, olgeta Kabinet Minista’s bilong mipela na yu stap tu waintaim Opposisen Lida bilong mipela waintaim olgeta Memba blong dispel Haus. Yu givim mipela gutpela tingting na save long mipela iken mekim toktok long gutpela bilong dispel kantri bilong yumi Papua New Guinea. Waintaim dispel, mipela I putim mipela yet na olgeta wok bilong dispela dei ikam long han bilong yu na mipela askim yu long neim bilong Kraiss yu harim na blesim dispela beten bilong mipela. Amen.’

**DEATH OF A FORMER MEMBER - SIR MATIABE YUWI –
STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

Mr SPEAKER - Honourable Members, I have to inform Parliament on the death of former member, Sir Matiabe Yuwi, on the May 6, 2014. Sir Matiabe was a former member for the Tari Open Electorate in the Second House of Assembly from 1968 to 1972, also the Third House of Assembly from 1972 to 1975, First National Parliament from 1975 to 1977 and the Second National Parliament, from 1977 to 1982. Sir Matiabe was appointed a member of the select Committee on Constitutional Development from 1968 to 1972 and also of the Constitutional Planning Committee and the Constitutional Laws and Acts Committee from 1968 to 1977. He was also appointed Minister for Media on February to March 1980.

As a mark of respect to the memory of the late Honourable Sir Matiabe Yuwi, I invite all Members to rise in your places.

All Members stood in their places as a mark of respect for the late Gentleman.

QUESTIONS

Mr JOE SUNGI - Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for Justice and Attorney General.

We have heard and seen from the media that many times the magistrates reduce the total number of years of sentencing for offenders of major crimes.

02/04

The term of sentence is always reduced. It may be good for the offender but not the complainant because it sends out a signal in the society that people who commit serious crime can be given a leaner sentence.

The Police officers always work hard to bring in offenders, who go through the court process and are sentenced but then the magistrate reduces the term of sentence. So can the Attorney General explain to the people of Papua New Guinea why the terms of sentences are

reduced at the magisterial levels? The law should punish those who are supposed to be punished.

Mr KERENGA KUA - Thank you Mr Speaker. The Member for Nuku's questions relates to why the terms of sentence or penalties are reduced at the court level, CIS and at the Parole Board even though the court has found them guilty.

When you find a person guilty then your next question is to determine what kind of punishment you should give him. That is a good topic in itself so how do you approach the question of punishment? What is the nature of the punishment that you should give? How severe should that be and how long should it be?

Mr Speaker, to answer those questions, we need to understand what the purpose of the penalty is once the person is found guilty. Firstly, the objective is to penalise the offender and show the societies disapproval of the violation of the laws that govern the societies. So the first objective of the punishment is to penalise. But in recent times, another body of approaches School of Tort has developed where it has been presented and accepted worldwide and has now become a conventional practice that in addition to punishing, there must be maximum opportunity given to rehabilitate people found in those circumstances. The institutions who are tasked to determine those penalties and the treatment to be given once a person is found guilty have the twin duty to balance the need to punish but at the same time to afford the individual consent and opportunity to rehabilitate himself or herself, so that when their punishment is over they can fit into the society and be more productive and a more positive citizen.

That is always difficult and we are human beings trying to use all the wisdom available to them to try to arrive at a balance between those two conceivably conflicting positions which is now highlighted by this question.

We will not walk away from our responsibility to rehabilitate citizens. That will continue but at the same time, the laws will have to penalise and continue and the twin friction will continue for some time. I do not think we will see a resolution. Those people who are tasked with the responsibility of the upper and the lower courts, their job is to determine the penalty in the first instance.

03/04

And based on whatever mitigating circumstances that is presented on behalf of the convicted person; they can discount that sentence, owing to youth, disease, illness, old age or other circumstances surrounding the person committing the offence.

The Courts do have the right to take that onto account and reduce the level of penalty imposed. That is the first point where you see some level of reduction, when you send them to the Correctional Services and they too have a system of evaluating a prisoners evaluation and if they are behaving well and are law abiding and showing respect for their fellow inmates and then those in authority to give some remission to their sentences and reduce that further.

It is not in an arbitrary way and that is the assurance that I can give to this Parliament and to the honourable Member. Each case is done on its own merit such that we do not take a blanket approach to every offender but each offender is given and treated as what is due to them.

We will not see an end to this question arising in our minds, that friction on the twin role punishing and sentencing people will continue but we can only hope that those who are in authority exercise their responsibilities in a judicious and responsible manner so that we can get a good and fair outcome.

Once in a while they will slip up and make a wrong assessment of a prisoner who is let loose and only for him to go out there and commit the same or a more serious kind of offence again.

Mr SALIO WAIPO – Thank you, Mr Speaker, for recognising the people of Angoram. My question is directed to the Minister for Public Service.

Why is East Sepik Province without a permanent administrator since 2012?

We only have them appointed for three months at a time and the people of East Sepik want to know when a permanent one will be appointed as there are decisions and programmes that the province is missing out on because there is no administrator.

Sir PUKA TEMU – I want to thank the Member for Angoram for his question regarding the appointment of a permanent Provincial Administrator. Let me say that like many provincial governments, such issues remain and next week, I would bring an information paper on the status of all the provinces in the country to show which provinces

have substantive appointments and have completed them and which provinces are still pending and how many are still acting.

Mr Speaker, the Member for Angoram is right, the current Provincial Administrator for East Sepik is still acting on the position and I wish to advise that the merit based process has been concluded and the Public Service Commission (PSC) has already sent the final shortlist of candidates that applied for the position. Under the previous administration of law which we have amended and is yet to be certified and the three candidates recommended by the PSC is now with the Provincial Executive Council and I am waiting for the PEC to advise on their preference.

04/04

Mr Speaker, upon receipt of the Provincial Government Council advice I will take it to the National Executive Council and the decision will be made. I urge the Provincial Government to bring their PEC decision so that this can be concluded.

Mr ATI WOBIRO – Mr Speaker, I direct my question to the Prime Minister.

Can the Prime Minister explain to the people of Western Province and to this nation the conflicting reports in the *dailies*, with regards to the outcome of the current Court case in Singapore between the PNG Sustainable Development Program and the State?

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Mr Speaker, I want to thank the honourable Governor of Western Province. I am aware that this Court case is ongoing in Singapore and the Attorney General has made a statement in respect of the outcome of the proceedings.

Mr Speaker, recently there have been statements made by the PNG Sustainable Development Chairman, Sir Mekere Morauta. These statements are completely unwarranted given the fact the orders of the Courts in Singapore are very specific. That is, neither parties do not go to the press and make unnecessary statements while the Court proceedings were taking place.

Unfortunately, the PNG Sustainable Chairman has seen fit to go to the press and try and debate this issue publicly.

Mr Speaker, I don't wish to get involved in unnecessary public mud slinging match with Sir Mekere, but the events have now reached a point where it is necessary to clarify some of these comments.

Mr Speaker, PNG Sustainable Development commenced proceedings against the State before the Singapore Courts and also lodged for an arbitration hearing at the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes in the United States.

Mr Speaker, our Government believes very strongly that these proceedings are without merit and we are now strongly contesting them.

Mr Speaker, these proceedings arise out of the issues regarding the control of the PNG Sustainable Development Program. They manage projects and assets on behalf of the people of Western Province and for the benefits of the people of the Western Province.

Mr Speaker, I am sure many of you are well aware that this agreement came about as a result of the State and BHP Billiton some 10 or 15 years ago.

Mr Speaker, the assets were given to Papua New Guinea and the people of Western Province, especially as a gift by the BHP company when it exited Papua New Guinea for the sole benefit of the people of this country and Western Province.

Mr Speaker, recently, the PNG Sustainable Program and their directors, especially the BHP appointed Directors on the Sustainable Program, deliberately went out and changed the articles of the company so that they do not allow Papua New Guinea appointed directors to be appointed by the State.

Mr Speaker, this is totally unnecessary. We have every right on behalf of our people to be represented on that Board.

Mr Speaker, this particular action has now installed Sir Mekere Morauta as Chairman for life. It is reducing the voting powers to appoint PNG directors and it vested entirely upon BHP to appoint directors.

Mr Speaker, not only that, Sir Mekere Morauta has become a member of the company meaning that he has become a shareholder of that company as well.

Mr Speaker, this has taken away powers to appoint directors of the State and it has taken the peoples' interest which the State will represent.

05/04

Mr Speaker, now, the question is who is Sir Mekere accountable to? He is not accountable to the State and to the people of Western Province.

Mr Speaker, since October 2013, the Sustainable Program has ceased its operations in PNG claiming that it has no funds, and moved its operations to Australia.

Mr Speaker, the Sustainable Program is now selling off assets like a fire sale for tens of millions of kina and or possibly even more.

Mr Speaker, I gave an example where it has been stated that, the Cloudy Bay Timber Project, which Sustainable invested and bought a lot of assets for about K200 million has been claimed to be sold for K40 million.

Mr Speaker, the tower facilities for telecommunication for Western Province was installed for K70 million and it is reported to have been sold for K3 million.

This type of action undertaken by them is because they are trying to transfer all the monies out of Papua New Guinea; but for whose benefit? They are shutting down services for our people in Western Province. They are shutting down power, the rubber project and other projects as well that support the communities because they are claiming that they are bankrupt.

Mr Speaker, they have over US\$1.4 billion sitting in foreign accounts, thus, raising the question; for whose benefit? They must withdraw that money to pay for these services so that our people continue to receive the services that they deserve.

Mr Speaker, I would like to say that the Government has not lost the court case in Singapore. The court case is still proceeding and we are trying to liquidate that company so that we can bring that money back to Western Province.

I would also like to make it very clear to Parliament and to our people that, the State has got no interest whatsoever in that money. And under the agreement all that money will go to the people of Western Province. The Provincial Government and the leaders of Western Province are going to participate in the management of those funds with the new trustees.

Mr Speaker, the Government has no obligation except to protect the assets of the people of our country and the people of Western Province.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Dr ALLAN MARAT – Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I would like to ask my questions to my learned friend, the Attorney General and Minister for Justice.

My questions are in relation to the K50 million payment to LR Group of Israel for two 15MW diesel turbine power generators in December, 2013.

Let me inform the Minister that I raise these questions knowing full well that PNG Power Limited is not aware of this purchase, other than the Cabinet approved K94 million for two 26.2 MW –

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Member, I believe that this question has already been raised. If I recall correctly, the Prime Minister answered a question in relation to the purchase of the two generators.

The *Standing Orders* does not allow us to repeat questions.

Mr Belden Namah – Point of Order! The question raised by the Governor of West New Britain Province was on hydro power generation and not the K50 million.

Mr SPEAKER – Nevertheless, an explanation was made in regard to the two generators.

Mr Ben Micah – Point of Order! I believe that I am the right person that the question should be addressed to. If the Member wishes to ask his questions then he can direct them to me.

Mr SPEAKER – The Chair will rule that you may ask your questions to the Minister for State Enterprises.

06/04

Mr Belden Namah – Point of Order! Allow the Member to ask his questions and then the Chair can decide which Minister should answer the questions.

Dr ALLAN MARAT – Mr Speaker, my three questions are legal questions and that is why I directed them to the Attorney-General. But if the Minister for IPBC wants to be responsible for answering these questions then maybe I should direct it to him but I prefer the Attorney-General. It is just a matter of getting a better legal clarification.

Mr SPEAKER – The Chair has made a ruling that you should ask your questions to the Minister for State Enterprise.

Dr ALLAT MARAT – Thank you, Mr Speaker, I respect your ruling.

(1) Is the Minister aware of the purchase of two 15 megawatt power generators in 2013 on the direction of the Prime Minister and if so, can he inform the Parliament whether or not he or his Department (this was meant to be the Department of Justice and Attorney General) provided the relevant legal advice?

(2) Can he confirm or deny that his Department (i.e. the Department of Justice and Attorney General) facilitated the necessary contract of sale and purchase agreement between the Independent State of Papua New Guinea and LR Group of Israel?

Mr Francis Awesa – Point of Order! Earlier this week, the Prime Minister provided the answers in relation to similar questions.

Mr SPEAKER – I think the question was not specific at that time. The Prime Minister answered the question and made references to it so allow the Member to raise his questions.

Dr ALLAN MARAT – Thank you, Mr Speaker, I will ask the last questions.

(3) Does the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea have authority to commit K50 million without Cabinet approval and if so, which law, if any, gives him such a power?

Mr BEN MICAH – Thank you Mr Speaker and I also thank the Member for Rabaul for his good questions. These are part of all these questions that continue to cause interests in the minds of the Parliament and the Public about some of the issues that people are trying to allude or make insinuations that the Prime Minister improperly acted in these matters.

I would like to say that this matter was initiated because during the period of November and December, we had critical power outages issues primarily in Lae and Port Moresby. So an instruction was given by the Prime Minister to me as the Minister responsible and I gave instructions to PNG Power who is the right body that deals with the generation of power to initiate discussions with Israel Electric where they have a MOU on various areas of collaboration and cooperation in providing power. Israel Electric has very important partnership with General Electrics, an American company, which is one of the leading

electrical power generation manufacturers in the world. They produce dual fuel generators which can produce power from diesel and gas-powered plants.

So this is a very good system which is not only dual but it is also mobile. We can easily move it to other locations. If it resolves the power issue in Port Moresby, we can move it to Kerema or to Alotau, because it is a mobile system.

07/04

Mr Belden Namah – Point of Order! Mr Speaker, can the Minister answer the specific questions instead of going round the bush?

Mr SPEAKER – That is noted; Minister, please answer the question.

Mr BEN MICAH – My brother, the Leader of the Opposition, patience. I will get to the point. And when I get to the point it will be very clear.

(Opposition Leader interjecting!)

Mr BEN MICAH – No, no, no; Mi mas mekim bus iklia gut tru. Mi mas saripim gut gras na bai iklia na nogat moa askim long dispela issue. (I will have to clear the bushes so that no more questions will be raised on the issue.)

Mr Speaker, PNG Power initiated the discussions based on an MOU that they have with Israel Electric. The Prime Minister gave the instructions. If you want to hang anybody; you hang Ben Micah because I am the man who initiated the discussions down with PNG Power. Instructions were also given to the Minister for Treasury and the Secretary for Treasury.

Mr Don Polye – Point of Order! Mr Speaker the matter took place in 2013. I was the Treasurer and I'd like to stay clear out of this. I never got any instructions.

Mr BEN MICAH – My brother, the former Treasurer is aware –

Mr SPEAKER – Don't carry on a debate with your colleague Member; please address the Chair.

Mr BEN MICAH – My apologies. Anyway, whether it is the Treasury Minister or the Treasury Department were aware that instructions were given to PNG Power for acquisition of the two dual powered generators, one was for Lae and the other was for Port Moresby.

Getting straight to the point Mr Speaker, all these discussions were with LR. LR is the country representative for Israel Electric. So LR, PNG Power and Treasury were involved in the discussions. We were really under pressure because of the problems with PNG Power which resulted in all the upheavals that led to the removal of the former Chairman and suspension of the former CEO and the many other complaints that arose from within.

We were caught in this situation that Lae and Port Moresby were in serious problems. So, would we just sit there and now try to go through all the little points in the Law with one lawyer trying to throw the law book at another lawyer sitting on this side; no! The Prime Minister acted decisively with PNG Power, Treasury, LR and Israel Electric and put the process in motion to acquire the generators which Cabinet later on fully approved and endorsed. The Attorney General gave his advice in Cabinet so Mr Speaker, that is now clear.

I hope the road is now clear for understanding. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Supplementary Question

Mr BELDEN NAMAH – The Minister for State Owned Enterprises said in his answer that the Prime Minister directed him. I have with me evidence to show that the Prime Minister actually directed the Acting Secretary for Treasury bypassing his then Minister for Treasury, Don Polye. I have also evidence with me -

Mr FABIAN POK – He is the Prime Minister; he has control overall.

Mr BELDEN NAMAH – Let me finish.

Mr FABIAN POK – The law says the Prime Minister has absolute power which is delegated to the Ministers, so at times he can bypass the Ministers and deal directly with the Secretary.

Mr SPEAKER – There has to be some order here. Honourable Minister, please resume your seat.

- Leader of the Opposition ask your question.

Mr BELDEN NAMAH – I was simply trying to point out to Parliament that no Prime Minister, no Leader of the Opposition, no Minister and no Member of Parliament can bypass the procedures and processes and relevant laws of this country.

08/04

That is my point. The Prime Minister bypassed every process and procedures of this country to unilaterally direct the Acting Secretary for Treasury to pay K50 million to LR Group and I have evidence to prove.

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable leader, ask the question. What is your Supplementary question?

Mr Peter O’Niell – Point of Order!

Mr SPEAKER – What is your Point of Order?

Mr PETER O’NIELL – I know that my young brother is excited and the country is also familiar with that but let me explain myself.

Mr Belden Namah – Point of Order! The Prime Minister seems to be deflecting from serious issues of the country.

Mr PETER O’NIELL – You cannot have a point of order when there is already a Point of Order. If the Opposition Leader read that letter correctly and did not misrepresent that letter for the way it was written to the Acting Secretary for Treasury, it was stated clearly and I quote ‘secure funding of K50 million so we can try and purchase the power’, not a part of the letter stated that we would purchase a company for K50 million. Please read that letter properly and tell the truth to the nation. Don’t continue to lie.

Mr Speaker, the LR Group is an agent of the Israeli company in the country because the Israeli Electrical Company does not have an office in PNG so they have the right to appoint agents to act on their behalf but it does not mean that it is illegal.

Mr Speaker, don't let the Leader of Opposition continue to misrepresent himself and everybody else in this Parliament.

- Thank you.

Mr SPEAKER – No more supplementary questions.

Mr Belden Namah – Point of Order! Mr Speaker, I haven't finished my supplementary question yet.

Mr SPEAKER - No, the Chair has ruled.

Mr Belden Namah – Mr Speaker you cannot use Parliament as a rubber stamp.

Mr SPEAKER – You have raised a Point Of Order and it has been explained by the Prime Minister, let's carry onto the next question.

Mr SPEAKER – I can allow you to ask your question next week.

Mr Sam Basil – Point Of Order! The Opposition Leader can't ask the same question again next week

Mr SPEAKER – We will now allow the Member for Chuave to ask his questions.

Mr WERA MORI – Thank you, Mr Speaker, for recognising the 45 000 people of Chuave. Mr Speaker, it is important that I ask this question, simply for the fact that our population is rural based. About 85 000 people of our population live in rural areas.

Mr Speaker, it is only fair that I ask the appropriate Minister under these circumstances that he could be able to provide these answers not only for my purposes but for the entire country.

Mr Speaker, we say that Papua New Guinea is seeing huge growth in terms of economy and the growth rate is at 6 per cent and is likely to increase to 21 per cent.

My question to the Minister for Treasury are as follows;

(1) If our economy is growing at such a rate and with recent announcement of the LNG production to come on stream, why is it that the strength of the kina continues to spiral down?

(2) The people of this country want to know what relief they could get so that the little money they have when they go to the supermarket or shop, they can be able to have the buying power?

09/04

(3) Can the Treasurer therefore, explain to the people of Papua New Guinea why is it that the kina value continuously goes down and over the last six months it went down by 35 per cent.

Mr Speaker, to buy one thousand Australian dollar six months ago, it costed us K2 600. Now it is over K3000. Can you explain to the country.

Mr PATRICK PRUAITCH – Thank you Mr Speaker. I thank the Member for Chuave for asking this question in terms of our foreign exchange. I want to assure the country and the people of Papua New Guinea that this is a temporary thing? We know that the LNG construction stage is winding down now. So the influx of foreign exchange during the construction period is also slowly down. That means the foreign currency coming into our country is less but at the same time there is more demand for us to pay in foreign currency.

Most of our payments are done in US dollars so we need to transfer our currency to the outside world but, I can assure this Parliament that once the revenue from the LNG is in, in terms of the proceeds it will stabilize our kina and hopefully we will probe up our currency. Thank you.

Mr SASINDRAN MUTHUVEL - I direct my question to the Minister for Public Service. But before I do, let me explain the background issues of my questions because one day the Honourable Members sitting in this Chamber will be subjected to it when the time comes for us to exist this Parliament.

Mr Speaker, we have thousands of retired and retrenched public servants throughout the country still on government payroll doing less or nothing at all waiting to receive their final entitlements. This is costing the taxpayers millions of kina which can be better used if the ex-public servants are paid quickly. For instance, in my province we have 33 formal public servants who have approval from DPM for their final entitlements or payout in August 2013. Their combined total payout is K900 000 but, up to now they have not received their final entitlements however, they are still on the payroll and the government is paying K67 000 in total each fortnight for these ex-officers. By August this year, these 33 officers will be paid K1.5 million in fortnight salary if nothing is done to find money to settle their entitlements.

Mr Speaker, what can be seen from this example is that due to government's inability to allocate appropriate funding to pay the ex-public servants the country is recklessly paying more very fortnight just to keep this group of people to wait to receive their finish pay.

M1 Speaker, this is a crazy situation. I have never had any place on this earth that does this. No government in the world pays its employees to sit around and do nothing and wait to receive their final entitlements.

My questions are:

(1) Can the Minister inform this Parliament about actions taken by his Department to stop this unnecessary usage of taxpayers' money?

(2) When can we expect the bleeding of public funds to stop?

(3) Is the Minister aware that the former senior public servant in West New Britain who was a departmental head in the province has been on payroll since 2007 on a very fat salary every fortnight and doing virtually nothing? And he is also waiting for his final entitlements.

(4) Why is DMP allowing this to continue?

(5) Can the Minister inform this Parliament as to when my former public servants will be paid out so that they can start a new life outside of Public Service?

(6) Can the Minister assure this Parliament that in the future, there will be sufficient funds made available to sort out the outstanding entitlements and bring them up to date?

10/04

Sir PUKA TEMU – Thank you, Mr Speaker and I thank the Governor for West New Britain for his questions regarding retired public servants still being on the payroll. I understand the issue is not specifically centred around his province but other Governors as well and also within Waigani as well.

I want to inform Parliament that last year, we allocated K30 million for retrenchment and paid out K20 million and we are yet to receive the balance so those who missed out are still waiting to be paid. We are managing that together with Treasury and this year, we also appropriated for retrenchment but unfortunately that is the state of the affairs. However we are committed to doing two things under the reforms that the Prime Minister has instructed.

And for the first time, we have a very competent team working on every province payroll through the triple P policy. One Person, One Position, One Pay Program and I want to tell Parliament that this program is doing extremely well and I understand that through this program, we actually achieved close to K200 million savings and so that clean-up program through the triple P program has covered close to 13 provinces and it will continue this year, which will also include the Waigani based agencies as well.

I can assure the Parliament that we have also appropriated for retrenchment and we are doing everything we can to make sure that those who have retired must be paid their duly their entitlements on time so that they will plan their future.

For those 33 public servants that are waiting for their entitlements; the process is a long one and it can take up to six months or more to identify and work out the correct entitlements and we spend an average of K20 million on our capacity every year to retrench those who have been identified.

Honourable Governor, may I assure you that I will take your issue on board and ensure that the 33 civil servants who are to retire will be paid their duly entitlements and other benefits dealt with this year. I also want to assure other governors that we are doing similar exercises for other provinces nationwide.

Supplementary Question

Mr GARRY JUFFA – In Oro Province, it involves public servants who are not waiting for retrenchment but have conspired with public servants in the Departments of

Finance, Provincial Affairs, and Personnel Management and put themselves on the payroll. We have written to these Departments to take these people off the payroll but they do not comply with our requests.

There was a recent payroll audit carried out; will anything be done to act upon the recommendations of this audit and when will something be done to address this problem?

There are about 20 per cent of the public servants in my province and I know other provinces are facing this as well. I will give a quick example; one particular person is employed as a district administrator and is practically based in Port Moresby and paid hardship allowances from Beijing.

He has a house in the province yet we can't find him because he has never been to work for almost five years. This one example so can DPM move quickly to recoup or save these monies that are being paid out in such manner, as these a public funds being misused.

Sir PUKA TEMU – As the Minister responsible, I have not received such a complaint and I cannot act but can the Governor provide specific details so that I can take action according to the systems already in place.

11/04

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS – EXTENDED TIME FOR QUESTIONS

Motion (by **Mr Don Polye**) put –

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

Motion negatived.

Mr DON POLYE (Kandep) – Thank you Mr Speaker, for allocating me new Seat across here.

Mr Speaker, I direct my questions to the Prime Minister and I ask the newly appointed Treasurer to take note.

Mr Speaker, structure of the Sovereign Wealth Fund, which is based on the Santiago international practice, is good for governance in any economy.

(1) Is the Prime Minister supporting the Sovereign Wealth Fund and if he is then, will the Sovereign Wealth Fund be legislated on the amendments as agreed to by the Government in this Session of Parliament?

My second question is in regards to the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative.

That particular policy is also an important policy of good governance to making sure that there is transparency in the proceeds that come out of –

Mr Patrick Pruaitch – Point of Order! Mr Speaker, I want to seek your ruling in so far as immediate and former Ministers of the Government having privilege to Government information and asking those questions which are Government confidentialities.

Mr SPEAKER – It is in Parliament so allow the Member for Kandep to ask questions but make it a general question.

Mr DON POLYE – Mr Speaker, I am only seeking the Prime Ministers assurance to support the legislation and have brought to Parliament because the work is ongoing.

Mr Speaker, the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative is a policy that is in line with good governance in the economy to making sure that the Government and the Government agencies are transparent in the proceeds that come out of the extractive industry whether, petroleum, mineral and gas. It is transparently accountable to the Parliament and then Budget and distributed as services to the people.

(2) What is the current status of this legislation?

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Mr Speaker, I thank the Honourable Member for Kandep for his questions. He knows very well the issues relating to those two issues and this Government is very supportive of both issues and he has no reason to doubt that.

Mr Speaker, when he was Treasurer he was in charge of those two issues and unfortunately some of the differences between Treasury and the Attorney General on how the Sovereign Wealth Fund structure should be established, delayed the establishment of that fund and its introduction to Parliament.

Mr Speaker, fortunately the new Treasurer and the Attorney General are working together to overcoming those differences and those differences have been dealt with and as a result, it will be tabled in Parliament.

Mr Speaker, let me commend the Attorney General who is doing a great job with the Sovereign Wealth Fund and taking extensive and wide consultations.

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Last month he travelled to Washington to consult and brief some of the stakeholders like the World Bank, IMF and others.

Therefore, I would like to assure our country and its people that we will establish a Sovereign Wealth Fund. This will benefit the future generations of Papua New Guineans due to the resource development this country is currently experiencing.

Mr Speaker, regarding the Extractive Industry's Transparency Initiative, the former Treasurer is aware because he signed that initiative on behalf of the government. We are going to continue to stay committed and establish these transparency initiatives that this organisation will bring. This is so that we can share with the rest of the international community on how we can expend the monies that we make through the development of our natural resources. Therefore, both initiatives have been taken charge by the Treasury and Attorney-General's Office and they are doing an excellent job on it.

Thank you.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Question proposed –

That the Grievances debate be noted.

Mr WERA MORI (Chuave) – Mr Speaker, before I start with my grievances I would like to put on record and congratulate and commend the government's recent 15 percent acquisition of Nautilus Mining.

Whether we like it or not, this is a decision in the right direction and I want to commend the O'Neill-Dion Government because this gives the Government of Papua New Guinea the right to own the technology designed for undersea mining. We will have a patent right by virtue of the fact that we own 15 percent of Nautilus. The underground mining technology that is going to be used will carry the flag of Papua New Guinea wherever in the world this technology will be used. I thank the Prime Minister and the Minister for Mining for the decision they made.

Now, I would like to raise a few points. Many times, we leaders of this country and Members of Parliament use our position and privileges to attack people who are out there trying to develop this country, especially, our development partners and in particular and those in the private sector. Not so long ago, and many a times, we try to derail their efforts and tend to call names of companies in Parliament using parliamentary privileges. Nevertheless, these companies provide employment opportunities for thousands of Papua New Guineans.

I also, would like to make a particular reference, especially, to those companies in the construction industry. Although we may not like what they may be doing; but those private companies like Dekena, Shoncliff and Hebou, I myself am one who has become critical of them but I think that we must give credit where it is due. They are doing their outmost best in the servicing of the contract that they have signed and in doing so they have employed so many Papua New Guineans who then able to put food on their tables.

Since I have the opportunity, I would like to talk about the expenditure of the Highlands Highway. We have always put a lot of money into that highway and that is good. But, when will we seriously put good funding into fixing the most problematic section of the highway in Chimbu?

13/04

We constantly talk about the Highlands Highway but we must be aware that this highway runs through a province that is densely populated. Fixing certain section of the highway requires a concerted effort.

I have stressed time and again of the need to fix the bypass, which is the problematic section of the highway; the Daulo Pass. I have been told that money has been approved and it will be fixed but to date, it still remains the same. There were two landslides at Kenagi along the Daulo Pass near Chuave. I have spent my DSIP funds on this section of the road which is used by vehicles traveling up and down the Highlands Highway. I really want to tell my people to block off this road if I spend my electoral money on this section of the road again. We know that this is a road that enables the delivery of services to the people.

I want Parliament to seriously take note of this concern so that when we again talk about fixing the Highlands Highway, we should not only talk but put the money where it really matters the most.

As for compensation, we need to invoke *Transport Protection Infrastructure Act (2010)* and enforce it so compensation should not be an issue and should not be an excuse to run away from our primary responsibilities.

The Acting Secretary made a good presentation this morning. I am not one who is qualified to speak on this particular subject. For me, it was like he was speaking Chinese to me because I did not understand but I did understand the projection of the expenditure when comparing to 2013. He stated that the big revenue that was expected to come in was from the mineral and petroleum sectors. This is very serious because eventhough with the size of the 2014 Budget, I still think we may be required to borrow more money to basically fund the rest of the budget because the earnings from the mineral and petroleum sectors will be less, especially oil. This is simply because the Ok Tedi production is declining and if Members may recall, I stated earlier this year or last year that there is a potential that we might have sabotage activities as a result of the State's acquisition of Ok Tedi as a result of the fluorine in the ore. I said that profits from Ok Tedi will decline and you never believed me. In 2012, Ok Tedi declared K520 million profit but last year, it only declared K48 million and this is a very serious problem.

Mr Speaker, I am sad to say that earnings from Ok Tedi Mine will still decline further and it will not help the situation because Porgera Mine reserves are declining. The only thing that is keeping the country going probably in a big way is Lihir. We need to find another project to come on stream which is Wafi in Morobe. We also have a lot of problems with the Mt Kare Mine.

Mr Speaker, I urge the government to seriously think about this. We projected that our economy will grow but I think that there will be still problem because the earnings from the Kobe Oil field, Ok Tedi and Porgera will decline.

Mr PETER IPATAS (Enga) – Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I rise to make a short statement on the system of our government in the country.

14/04

Papua New Guinea is made up of over 800 different tribes and languages. And I think we are shifting away from the decentralization of certain powers and functions to the

provinces and districts. We should allow our people in the districts to take ownership in terms of development. People are out there in all walks of life.

I heard on numerous occasions on the floor of this Parliament, members advocating the centralization of powers and many functions that were given to the provinces back to Waigani. How many years have we seen Waigani faltered? It seems that the National Government and national agencies are not accountable to any authority. This can lead to a break down in governance and there is no one to rectify the situation and the people will continue to suffer.

Mr Speaker, we have to look at strengthening the systems we have in place. Through the Prime Minister we now have District Authorities and provincial governments. It's about time we allowed provincial governments and district authorities to assume real responsibility; not only financial autonomy. Money is only part of the process.

In my province of Enga, people there have their own aspirations. When they gave me the mandate to represent them in Parliament, I have my own visions on how the people of Enga would become positive contributors to national development. How would our people of different tribes and provinces use their own initiatives to contribute towards the development of this country.

I want us, as a government, to seriously consider this. Activities are still taking place in the provinces and districts as we sit in Parliament for the next two or three weeks. We must make them become effective in development. We should not hesitate in decentralizing powers to the provinces and districts. Let them take the lead.

I would like to congratulate the Prime Minister for his leadership which saw the distribution of substantial funding to the districts. There is funding to the districts but whether the systems are working is a big problem. Those are the issues that we have to take ownership of.

It is better to have ten or twelve successful provinces or 40 to 50 successful districts than all of us waiting for Waigani to deliver. And Waigani falters, the whole country suffers. We need to consider these issues. Provinces must compete against each other and districts must compete against each other. Let us not pretend that Waigani is the answer for our people.

The people who gave us the mandate want change. How we move is up to each one of us. You have that chance and mandate to move your province.

Mr Speaker, those are just some of my views and I think the Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers must consider these carefully. I have been sitting here in Parliament for 17 years now and I would like to stress here that we must get rid of the mentality that Waigani is the answer. That has to stop!

15/04

I have been in Parliament for 17 years and I must strongly say that the idea of the Government having all the answers must be stopped. The Government does not have all the answers for everyone in the rural areas. We must look at ways to empower our own people to make their own decisions so that they can also make sure that they have their own vision and they know their destiny.

Mr Speaker, I am speaking from experience. There are lots of different kinds of people. We do not know about Esa'ala District because it's isolated or even other districts in the provinces have their own priorities so allow the people to decide for themselves. Let them take ownership. It won't be good if the Parliament makes decisions and misappropriate millions of kina while the people suffer in the rural areas. It's better we redirect funding down to the provinces, districts and LLGs. And if one province misappropriates the funds then that province will destroy itself it won't affect the whole country. If the national government face problems then the whole nation will suffer. I have been thinking a lot about this issue and I think that the Prime Minister and the National Government should seriously think about autonomy. We must share the powers and functions let us not be fearful of doing that because these are our people and they know that together as a country we will survive. We must allow individual provinces and districts to take ownerships of their own decisions and let us not spoon-feed them. Thankyou Mr Speaker.

Mr BIRE KIMISOPA (Goroka) – Thank you, Mr Speaker. Before I enter into my Grievances debate. On the behalf of the people of Goroka, I sincerely congratulate Honourable Nick Kuman on his elevation as Minister for Education and also commend the Prime Minister for choosing an exceptional an exceptional Papua New Guinean to this most critical portfolio and we have a major challenge before us.

Mr Speaker, my Ggrievance debate will be purely on education. In this country the most prized possession is not the cars we drive or the house we live in or how much money we have. The most important possession we have in our country is our people and more

importantly the young people we have in the country and also those children that are yet to be born. Perhaps at this critical juncture I congratulate the Prime Minister for the Tuition Fee Policy (TFP) that has been accepted widely in this country and more so at this same juncture we need to pause for a moment and look at the practical challenges that we face so far as this policy is concern.

Mr Speaker, can I take this Parliament to Goroka and display what we have in Goroka so far as education is concerned and in particular, I would like to refer to the Goroka High School. The Goroka High School situated in my electorate is one of the pioneer schools in the country. Mr Speaker, today, the school has 2153 students enrolled at that school. The average attendance rate per classroom is 60 to 70 students per class. They have enrolled 890 students in grade nine alone when they can only house 15 classes for grade nine. Some of the students are sitting on basketball courts and others in the mess halls taking lessons.

Mr Speaker the TFP grant for Goroka High school allocated this year is K1.7 million and Goroka High school has received K770 000 so far.

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It works out to be roughly around K870 per child in terms of investments that we are making. The real investments for our children in this country especially in a school like mine should be K3 000 a per year.

Mr Speaker, all grades in my school cannot afford a text book whether it is for social science, maths and English. These are the practical problems they are going through. If I may indulge you a little bit, in Goroka High School at 10.00 am morning recess there is a queue of children trying to access 10 toilets and this is a good with 2 153 students. These are some of the practical problems that we have in this country.

Mr Speaker, we can make good policies are good but we must cost them out properly. I would like to urge the government to perhaps we should take a pause for a moment and look at what the population growth rate is doing to the social policy initiative that we put together. It is the best policy for our people. But now is the time to critically analyse the investment we need to make. We need to do some remodeling right now. The population is growing at about 3 per cent per year. It will create problems in the years to come.

What we will have in this country is that, these groups of Papua New Guineans between the ages 10 – 17 who are in school now will be going our universities, but there is no space for them. Sure enough our University academics will be crying out what kind of breed

are we sending to their institutions. Are these the kind of Papua New Guineans who will enter the work force?

Mr Speaker, that is not good enough. We need to do a lot more. Perhaps the Treasury, the National Planning and the line agencies of the Government should leave the comfort of Waigani and get out into the districts and see what we have. Perhaps join the queue in my school and try to access the washroom. These are the real issues. We ought to be spending more money per child. For Goroka High School, they would be spending roughly about K878.00 per child per year.

This is the most precious position we have in this country. The children in Goroka are no better than the children in NCD and likewise in other centers. We all aspire to do the same things. One day you and I won't be here. We will be long gone. These Papua New Guinea who are battling in our schools today will be sitting here. One will be sitting in the seat that I am sitting on right now. It is an important initiative so we have to facilitate and use every effort we have in the Government. We should be looking at that investment. This is the signature initiative of Prime Minister Peter O'Neill. That initiative needs to mobilize efforts amongst the ministers. The line agencies are also responsible including the provincial governments and those of us in the districts to work together to come out with a blue print so that we do not leave all our children behind.

Mr Speaker, they are plagiarising of copy right by photocopying text books but they cannot do that. Every child in this country is entitled to a science, math's and social science text books. It is their right to education to have right to these books. I had it when I went to school. I never had photo copy ones but if the children don't have it, it does not make sense.

The most precious possession we have in this country is our children. My grievance will come to that end but I just hope those of us sitting in this Chamber will reflect back. We should not be dreaming a lot about DSIP. We did not come here to ask the government for money instead we should pause for a moment and look at the investment aspect of it, because one day this beautiful country will be governed and run by these children.

17/04

Mr BELDEN NAMAHA (Vanimo-Green) – Mr Speaker, I would like to participate in this debate.

In recent times, the Opposition has raised serious issues or concerns in the way the Government has been dealing with its business, especially the disturbing conduct and

behaviour of the Prime Minister. Every time the Opposition raises serious concerns and issues relating to the manner in which the country is been governed, the Prime Minister continues to use opposition's lack of alternative policies as a blame to have him continue to do what he does.

Mr Speaker, and the honourable Members, you are all aware that it is the job of the Opposition to keep the Government in check. The Opposition has taken the Prime Minister to task in his capacity as the Prime Minister; I draw attention to issues like the K71 million Paraka scandals, K3 billion UBS loan and recently, the K50 million payments to another group.

Mr Speaker, the Prime Minister has provided little or no response to the issues and concerns raised in connection to these controversial dealings. He has instead, constantly accused the Opposition of failing to provide alternative policies. As if his conduct has anything to do with the policies or the lack of it.

The Prime Minister has not given one honest answer in respect to each of the cases that I have raised, let alone engages in any ministerial debates over the issues and concerns raised. He has continued to downplay the seriousness of the issues and accused the Opposition of engaging in gutter policies. While at the same time employing a defective tactic, where he has tried very hard to somehow link the lack of alternative policies from the Opposition to his scandalous and corruptive actions. I stand here today feeling completely useless and hopeless. I feel useless because I believe I have done all I possibly can and I do not know what more I can do to stop this unprecedented level of corruption in this country.

I feel completely hopeless because I am not getting help from anyone, particularly the Members of this Parliament, and other arms and agencies of Government to fight corruption on behalf of the very people that have entrusted us to safeguard their interests.

Mr Speaker, I am absolutely astounded that the three highly scandalous dealings of the Prime Minister has barely aroused any interests or concerns from the leaders and constitutional offices. I am at a complete loss to understand why a nation stands still and stands by a Prime Minister who continues to openly defy our national constitutional laws and a Prime Minister who will stop at nothing until he gets what he wants to get, not for the nation but for himself.

Mr Speaker, through the Chair, I ask all honourable colleagues -

Mr John Pundari –Point of Order! These are serious allegations and you said you have facts and figures but these are under investigations and you are jumping the gun. You do not seem to have any alternative and seem to go around.

Mr SPEAKER – Mr Minister, please resume your seat, your point is in order. Members, please be mindful of allegations you make on the Floor of Parliament.

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Mr BELDEN NAMAHA – Thank you Mr glory seeker. Mr Speaker, -

Mr SPEAKER – Leader of the Opposition, can you withdraw that label you just gave to the Minister.

Mr BELDEN NAMAHA – Mr Speaker, I apologise and I withdraw that.

Mr Speaker, I ask all my college Members of Parliament here that are we condoning corruption in this country? Are we saying that as long as my electorate receives K10 million DSIP Funds, the Prime Minister can do whatever he likes to do with Papua New Guinea?

Mr Speaker, is this the oath of office the Prime Minister took and the pledge he made upon assuming leadership of the people? No, we have a higher calling and a higher responsibility, not just to our electorates, but to the people of this country, our flag and to our *Constitution*. Do I need to convince you more on what I have been raising in this country?

Mr Speaker, If I may, just look at the Parakagate issue. More than K71.8 million of public funds has been personally directed by the Prime Minister to pay Paul Paraka Lawyers. He ignored the duty required of a Prime Minister to verify through his Attorney General –

Mr Patrick Pruaich – Point of Order! Mr Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition himself has referred this matter to the Courts and he should refrain from discussing this matter further.

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Minister your point of order is in order. Leader of the Opposition please that matter is before the Courts refrain from going any further.

Mr BELDEN NAMAH – Mr Speaker, as it seems very painful to my colleges in Government, I would move to my next point the UBS Loan.

Mr Speaker, *Section 209* of the *Constitution* states that a foreign loan cannot be obtained without the authority and control of the National Parliament.

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Leader of the Opposition that matter is also before the Courts.

Mr BELDEN NAMAH – It has not been resolved. If I may, if you read the Papers this morning, it has only been dismissed because the proper process of Court was not followed.

Mr SPEAKER – Leader of the Opposition, I don't want to be seen to be gagging debate here. I have received instructions from the Ombudsman Commission not to facilitate this discussion relating to the UBS Loan on the Floor of Parliament. You have to be mindful of that fact.

Mr BELDEN NAMAH – Let me then go to the issue that has not been answered today in Parliament during Question Time by the Minister of the State Owned Enterprise in regards to the questions by the shadow Attorney General.

Mr Speaker, the K50 million payment to Ellal Group is one serious issue. On the direction of the Prime Minister, on the 4 December 2013, which was acknowledged and received by the Acting Secretary for Treasury on the 17 December 2013. The Independent State of Papua New Guinea in a unilateral decision by the Prime Minister committed and paid Ellal Group K50 million.

Mr Speaker, the money was wired in speed time. The Prime Minister in his press conference told the people of this nation that the money was still in the Central Bank of Papua New Guinea. I have proof to show that the money was wired in 72 Hours

Mr Speaker, the Prime Minister ignored all set processes and procedures of procurement in this country, without adhering to the Public Finance Management Act, without complying with the company and PFM Act.

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It is the sole responsibility of PNG Power Limited through its shareholder IPBC to ask for new capital acquisitions. The Prime Minister seemingly bypassed all the processes, procedures and relevant laws of this country to make a unilateral decision.

I do not go to my district treasurer and make commitments to draw money to finance activities that have not been approved by the JDP/PPC. Therefore, we must follow the processes and procedures. I would like to inform this Parliament that our Prime Minister of this country has failed to follow set processes and procedures and adhere to the *Constitution* and relevant laws of this country.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr PETER O'NEILL (Ialibu-Pangia – Prime Minister) – Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving time during this grievance debate to talk one or two issues. I will talk on the issues that the Leader of Opposition has raised and also about some of the good points that the Member for Goroka raised regarding education.

• Mr Speaker, firstly, I am happy that the Leader for Opposition is doing his job, which what the Opposition is supposed to do in any democracy. We have no problem with the role that the Opposition Leader plays and the way he conducts himself but when he goes around without facts and tries to accuse people in this country, especially, leaders and myself, then that is where we have concerns.

You have facts when you raise serious allegations because these are not minor matters of State. When you talk about the 'Paraka Case', this issue is not a new one. This Government did not give this contract to that law firm to represent the State and we paid them. In 2002 this particular firm was engaged by the previous government, so, the issue that you have raised is now before the Courts and Police. We have to let them do their jobs and not run around with some rogue policemen under your payroll and direction to try and arrest leaders in this country.

Mr Speaker, the Police Force is not a private business. We know what the Opposition Leader is up to but we do not go out there and get into a slanging match with him.

Mr Speaker, let us respect the laws and let them go and prosecute the case and if some of us are wrong then we will go to jail, and there is no problem about that because we are not running away.

Mr Speaker, nevertheless, the Paraka Law Firm was engaged in 2002. We came into this government in 2012 but, for ten years he was doing business with the State. Where were you when you were a State Minister for six years? You should have raised some of these concerns during that time but, that is beside the point.

Mr Speaker, with the 'Paraka Case' it is before the Courts and we will defend our actions and issues that are before us but there is nothing wrong that the Prime Minister or this Government has done. We did not steal even a kina from anybody in order for us to feel insecure because nobody in their right mind would do that.

Mr Speaker, we will make sure that we will prosecute this case very well. The Taskforce Sweep is also doing an excellent job regarding this matter. The only person that is stopping this case from proceeding is the Opposition Leader. He has taken the matter to the National Court to try and fast track the process. The Taskforce Sweep is ready to prosecute this case and all he has to do is withdraw his court case in the National Court. Nevertheless, that is not the case as he is stopping it on one hand and carrying on like a spoilt child on the other hand.

Mr Speaker, we will just wait for the Court's outcome.

As for the issue about the K3 billion for the UBS loan, this issue has been argued on so many times and I do not know how many times I have to explain to the Opposition Leader and the public, and I do not know how else I am going to explain. I think I have to speak in my 'wiro' language and he will understand it. Therefore, what is wrong with Papua New Guineans owning their own resources? What is wrong about that?

Mr Belden Namah – Point of Order! What is wrong about Papua New Guineans owning their own resources? The Prime Minister should not debate the UBS loan issue as it is before the Courts.

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Mr SPEAKER – Your Point of Order is in order. Prime Minister, please avoid the discussion on the UBS loan issue.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Mr Speaker, I am only making reference about Papua New Guineans owning their own resources. I am not debating the issues about the specifics of the loan that the Leader of the Opposition is trying to encourage me to debate on.

Mr Speaker, I know where to draw the line and he doesn't and that is the problem.

Mr Speaker, the issue is about Papua New Guineans owning their own resources. When you look at the facts surrounding some of these cases, his party, the PNG Party founder, Sir Mekere Morauta, sold all our rights in 2002 when he sold Origin Minerals for very cheap price like PNGBC and so forth. So who sold the people's rights out? Not Peter O'Neill, Somare, Chan or Wingti; it was the PNG Party and its founder when they were in Government. We are just trying to get back what we have lost and there's nothing wrong with that.

Mr Speaker, time will only judge whether we have made the right investment or not. As we speak today, the Oil Search shares are trading at \$9.10, we bought it at \$8.20. If you translate those gains into kina terms, we made K300 million this month. Is anybody silly enough to give that kind of gain away? Is anybody silly enough to make decisions where we have held this kind of shares before for 10 years or so and all of a sudden, we shouldn't own it?

Mr Speaker, let the Ombudsman Commission do the investigations and I welcome their investigations on this matter. These are the two issues that the Leader of the Opposition is so obsessed with and he is prepared to allow Papua New Guinea citizens to live in power blackouts while he will be okay because he has a generator in his house.

So, Mr Speaker, the question of whether we are able to fund this process has been clearly explained by the Minister for Public Enterprise. We gave directions to his ministry and department allowing PNG Power to buy new generators through the company that the Israeli State owns. Now, it is not wrong for the Government to give instructions and it is not a crime for the Prime Minister to direct people to go and do their jobs.

We know that PNG Power was owed millions of kina, close to K40 million or K50 million for unpaid power bills by the State and State-owned agencies. So we said to write that off and instead of giving them the money which they will mismanage, we are better off buying generators that will provide power for our people. What is wrong with that?

Mr Speaker, that is why the arrangement has been made and the generators will arrive very shortly. It will be installed and it will fix our blackout issues. He has gone around giving

reports to everybody so he might as well give it to everyone else that wants to hear his complaints and we look forward to defending them.

Mr Speaker, on the issues of corruption, no Government has done more than what we have done. We have established an Anti-Corruption Task Force within the Public Service in 2012, which is carrying out very high profile investigations. They are independently doing their investigations without political interference. They are even investigating Government Members and there is nothing wrong about it. Let them continue to make sure that they do the right job so they reflect well on the Government and our country. We are the only Government that has established ICCAC after many years of trying. The Attorney-General is now putting together a new enabling laws which will look into some people who own millions of kina worth of assets, going around spending cash like nobody's business as if they've got backyard full of money. We all know that and you have to explain how you ended up getting all this money.

21/04

I think it is important that we establish an independent process that will allow all of us to be investigated, so that, we can depend whatever we owned, how we have acquired those assets and how we have acquired all these wealth. Mr Speaker, I believe it is a good thing.

Second thing is Mr Speaker; we are the only Government that increases the funding for Police. Last year, when they gave more budget appropriation that they wanted, we gave them more money on top of it because we wanted them to make sure that they carry out the this Government looks forward to working with them.

Mr Speaker, in regard to education, the Member for Goroka spoke about it, but let me say this; for instance, there is a case about DSIP. The last portion of DSIP and PSIP and LLGSIP are for education and health and those infrastructures in the districts throughout the country. For example, a case in Eastern Highlands where nine Members get a total of K90 million a year and that K90 million is more than DSIP and more than what they got in the past years. PSIP another K45 million plus another K20 million LLGSIP, so, all in total you have K150 million additional development fund.

Mr Speaker, we need to spend on Education so all we need to do is work together and make sure that we build infrastructure that our children need. Our job as the Government is we are paying the school fees because we are trying to live a child outside of the classroom

when it is our obligation to make sure that they get some kind of education. We cannot discriminate that because of the State, you can come in and you cannot come in.

We must make sure that every child in this country must be educated whether we do it hard way, we have to make those sacrifices. Next year, the Government is prepared and the Government is working closely with the Minister for Education for entire education system in the country. We will gather for it in the 2015 Budget and roll it out in the first part of year 2015, including capacity building within the education for teacher training and all the other issues.

Mr Speaker, this Government is doing a lot more than it has ever been done and I want to say that we are doing it and we need to stay focus; we do not need to have rhetoric about the Opposition Leader because its two things. The more dirty games he played it's better for him but we do not have to be like him to play in the mud. We just have to make sure that we continue to work for the good for the country and that is what this Government is doing.

Mr RONNY KNIGHT (Manus) – Mr Speaker, on behalf of the people of Manus, I thank you for the opportunity given to us in the light of the recent disaster affecting my people and to bring it to the attention of this Haus and the Members.

Mr Speaker, my district is in crisis at this time and there are several huge problem that I am addressing especially I can with what I have on hand. I must also thank and commend the Prime Minister for his immediate assistance when I call for help.

Mr Speaker, the Prime Minister has been awarded a title of 'Lapan' by the people of Manus. As far as the people of Manus are concern with his assistance during the time of need.

Mr Speaker, it is now three months ago, our islands are hit by extreme winds and high king- tides, besides inundated small louvring islands where the populations were settled and completed wiped out their food crops and their traditional stable food of taro and sago.

Mr Speaker, the worst affected area is the Ninigo-Hemit Local level Government, which lies about 3 000 miles from main Island of Manus. In addition to this misery, we had little rain since mid January and we expect the situation to get worst before it's become better.

Mr Speaker, it took our Provincial Disaster office seven weeks to response to send a team and coincidently, we sailed at the same time with the relief supplies on the MV Strait Star. Our Provincial Disaster office has almost no infrastructure or funds to attend to such

problems. We need to address this oversight quickly in the event if the forecasted El Nino does occur. We do not have response time of seven weeks for any more of such disasters.

Mr Speaker, I must comment the National Disaster Officer and leadership of our Deputy Prime Minister for the quick assistance we received which saved many starving infants and toddlers. My profound thanks to your understanding staff, Mr Prime Minister, they deserve to be commended for a job well done.

22/04

I made a second trip to the island last week and found that crops are not recovering as the soil is still inundated with salt and unless we get a huge rainfall the people will still be dependent on us for food until the staple crops flourish.

Mr Speaker, it takes about two years for taro to grow and 10 years for a sago palm to mature. Mr Speaker, our miseries are compounded by the presence of foreign pirate and illegal fishing vessels stripping the reefs for giant clams and raiding the villages for chickens and pigs. These vessels profess to be Vietnamese but we believe they are Indonesian. One vessel has the number TD92408ATS written on the side and all the others were painted over in an attempt to camouflage those vessels. The locals of Liot Island were fed up of this treatment and mobilised to try and attack the ships when they were confronted with several men armed with AK47 rifles and hand grenades.

Mr Speaker, what can our people do with fishing guns? Pump boats from the Indonesians are all over our western islands taking everything by nets, lines and by diving. They know that we are incapable of protecting our resources and have been doing this for years without any action on our path and now it is escalating.

I also witnessed the transshipment of fish from two licensed fishing boats to a mother boat just off Pion Island, which I believe is against NFA laws. A tanker is also around to refill them when they need it.

Mr Speaker, I believe even the licensed fishing vessels are exporting unrecorded catches under our noses. What is going on with the observers on board those boats? Obviously, they are making most out of the situation to the detriment of our resources. I reported these sightings to our base commanders at Lombrum and I believe we were informed that they needed us to find fuel, allowances and rations.

Our Navy needs to be well equipped and alert. These boats we have are always too late to do anything and arrive after the event is well over.

Mr Speaker, since I have been in this office, I funded three such trips and cannot justify this anymore. We need a joint agency corporation effort from all the stakeholders to institute a coast watching system throughout our islands. A weekly area flight over the area could also pinpoint the miscreants and we need smaller, faster fuel friendly speedboats. I am sick and tired of the foreign and local media frothing on the mouth of the asylum seeker issue. That is been handled by the Government. Where is the coverage for the disasters like cyclone Aita and the tragedy in my province? Is not the threat of hunger and livelihood of thousands of people more important than most of the rubbish we read every day.

As a mandated leader, I must demand that our forces protect our citizens and immediately apprehend those pirates and when they catch them, I want those boats confiscated and given to my people so we can make use of them. We must not be complacent; there is one-sided war going on right now over our countries resources and our side is absent from the field of battle. What's more important than the resources of our people?

Mr Speaker, I am also working on a fisheries Bill for provinces to get 10 per cent of the valuable Tuna caught in our water as a royalty and a levy and licences of 25 per cent to be distributed equally to affected provinces. This will relieve the Government during budget distribution as my province is more part of the Mogado square, we would receive enough to run our province and district while at the same time have enough to police our waters.

Mr Speaker, I applaud our regional contingent mobile squad for the sobriety and discipline which impressed me extremely when the Asylum regional centre originally started. Unfortunately, the quality has dropped extremely. We have reports of womanising and armed police men forcing women into vehicles for parties causing these women to jump from moving vehicles injuring themselves and assaults on members of the public. The most alarming is an incident over the Easter weekend. A member of the mobile squad who was drunk and in civilian had an argument over a women and entered a private premises pointing a gun at a prominent citizen, businessman and landowner and shot his German Sheppard guard dog.

Mr Speaker, reports in the social media now alert us to a missing fire arm belonging to a member of a mobile squad and this is not discipline. Why on earth are they allowed to carry fully automated weapons around peaceful Lorengau town; I don't think that is needed.

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Mr Speaker, I think the usefulness of these rogue policemen are outweighed by the negative portrayal of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary and the lawlessness. The rogue policemen are spoiling the image of our police force on the ground. How can you enforce the law when you are breaking it?

It is time we stage more regular police at the barracks near the regional processing centre and do away with the fly in fly out contingent. I think that is all I have to say today.

Mr JAMES MARAPE (Tari-Pori – Minister for Finance) – Thank you, Mr Speaker I would like to make a few statements. Many times we make statement under the disguise of fighting corruptions only to continue to run our political agendas.

I think it is about time we take a serious look at how we structure and restructure our political structures in PNG to give little room to political maneuvering that takes place all the time, especially by leaders who have the intention to be prime ministers.

There are two classifications of leaders in Parliament. In general, we are content with being legislators but there are few leaders who want to be prime ministers and so they continue to play politics at the expense of this government. They continue to run lines and today the Opposition Leader continues this morning by using Parliamentary privileges to run up cases against the Prime Minister. Those are unsubstantiated arguments such as the Paraka Lawyers case.

Mr Speaker, in the case of the law firm that I have alluded to, if the Prime Minister has an issue to hide, why will he in the first instance set up a specific inquiry into the Paraka matter?. It is logical and common sense. He has allowed for investigations to run its course as well as allowing the sweep team to do its work. We all know that the ICCAC Bill and other subsequent enabling legislations to fight corruption will come, for instance, the Whistle Blowers Act that we put in the program to be brought to this Parliament session. Prime Ministerials esperance continues to run among genuine members of Parliament causing instability.

Mr Speaker, let me relate to political instability has been the greatest cause of lack of progress for us as a country. You look at the lifespan of a government since independence, the longest was a period of 8 – 9 years when the Somare Government was in power. It was 18 months on average lifespan of a government. I remember clearly when the Governor of

Western Highlands Rt. Honourable Paias Wingti made a statement and continues to make this statement in government caucus that political stability is very important towards the course of development in this country.

I remember clearly, a statement he made when he was the Prime Minister that, half the time he was managing politics and not his country. That is a significant statement. PNG gained independence in 1975. Malaysia and Singapore got Independence in the early 60's. You place a finger on where we are today, and you place a finger on where Malaysia and Singapore were in 2000, we are today nowhere near where they were in 2000.

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And I make reference all the time to the fact that we had many changes to government so far as politics are concern and as a result the economies that were in our presence in the Government caucus couple of days ago said that we missed the boat as far as development was concerned. The mineral boom in the 1990's as well as the mineral and accommodation boom in 2000. We simply missed out because of political instability.

A glimpse of what political instability can do to the country is clearly in the 2002-20011 periods. When we had long tenure of office it gave investors' confidence and predictability on how we as a nation will shape up and we were able to attract investment. None can be better and clearer than the PNG LNG project of which Exxon Mobil choose to invest in PNG and its partnership to invest in PNG at a time when there was global financial crisis in 2008-2009 period.

That is a case in point to having political stability in this country and I come to this point now that it is about time we separate Prime Minister aspirants from genuine law makers in this country. I propose to this Parliament to allow Prime Ministers to be elected by the people of this country to keep this Chamber free of Prime Ministerial aspirants and allow genuine legislators to be in this house.

Allow the people to elect the Prime Minister and let us give certainty to the tenure of Prime Ministership for a five year period or four to run his office, select his Cabinet and comes to parliament to ask for legislations that this House feels is good for the nation. For so long we have mixed Prime Ministerial aspirants and legislators in this House and Prime Minister aspirants continue to run politics.

As a result, we have seen that this country is not moving because of those who want to be Prime Minister. Genuine debates on issues are okay but when it is heavily tainted by a

prime Ministerial aspirant and continues to run the course, this is corruption and is wrong. I am not someone who likes to talk about corruption all the time because I have fingers pointing back at me per say as an example.

Mr Speaker, I propose to this Parliament for consideration to take the opportunity in this grievance debate that it is about time we isolate Prime Ministerial candidates. For instance, if candidate x from this electorate wants to be Prime Minister, then in the election period he vacates his seat and runs as Prime ministerial candidate. Those who want to be legislators contest for the seat that he vacates. The leader that contests for the Prime Ministerial seat and if the nation does not vote for him then he has no place in the Parliament. This is, so he does not come back and pollute the minds of genuine legislators who want to achieve results and pass laws for the country.

I propose that this current Parliament with a percentage of attendance over 75-80 take serious stock on how our political structure is right now and I see some proposals coming through on having bicameral parliament and I go one step further in proposing that the Prime Minister must be elected by the people.

And keep the Prime Minister out as a legislator and allow this Chamber to be purely of leaders who want to make laws for this country.

Mr PAIAS WINGTI (Western Highlands) –I just want to make a few comments.

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Mr Speaker, when you destroy a leader, you must always remember that it is not that leader you are destroying but it is your own country. We are all Papua New Guinean and every time when we talk about a leader whether it is the Prime Minister or another leader, we must be very careful when we talk because the ordinary citizens and the international community is listening to you painting a picture of a young country. The people that gather on the Floor of this Parliament are the leaders. When we destroy the leader we are destroying the image and reputation of a nation.

Mr Speaker, when Members of Parliament come to the Parliament, they must make sure that they have there facts right. They must make sure that their evidence is right and that they have something substantial that they really mean business. Don't come to Parliament and use the media and use the privilege of this Parliament and make wild allegations. It is

common sense that people out there believe anything and everything we say because I have gone through it as former Prime Minister.

I had Sir Julius as the Finance Minister and Sir Mekere Morauta as the Governor of the Central Bank, and they put a loan deal together. The lenders wanted the deal to be made in Cayman Islands. The Prime Minister doesn't do those submissions - it was done by the Central Bank and the Finance Minister at that time. They took it to Cabinet and I was chairing the Cabinet, which approved it. When that happened the news ran, "Wingti Cayman Islands Deal", he's got heaps of money and he destroyed this country.

My goodness! The Students Union and the Workers Union picked it up. They started by saying, 'where did he park these millions of kina?' It was like hot potato for the Students movement and the Workers Union.

Mr Speaker, it is very hard for the Prime Minister, they will say things that is so very painful.

Mr Speaker, my honourable appeal to the leaders is, please, let's not destroy our country. Do your homework.

Mr Speaker, I used to challenge Sir Michael Somare, but I never attacked him personally. I had my evidence and I questioned him and I put him out. I never attacked his character nor did I attack Sir Julius Chan's character as well. Who taught you young leaders these lessons here in this Parliament? If you want to play politics, there are right ways to do things.

Mr Speaker, if we say, the man who is sitting in London has a corrupt past, I withdraw that, Mr Speaker, but because we are stating here that he is corrupt, the public believes that we are all corrupt.

Mr Speaker, yesterday, I attended Government Caucus and I told the Prime Minister that if his managers, the 24 Ministers, run this country properly, the public service will fall in line.

Mr Speaker, when Sir Julius was Prime Minister he said one word and the system moved. When Paias Wingti said one thing, the system moved. Today, I see Members of Parliament begging the public servants and you as the Prime Minister running around trying to do things and I feel sorry.

Mr Speaker, we are not going to allow this but we are going to establish a strong Executive Government. If the Secretary of a Department is not listening to you, you should sack them to establish your authority. If you don't do that, you are wasting your time.

Mr Speaker, also the Opposition has a right and I am glad that the Opposition has been given utmost opportunity to talk and ask questions. The Government must be accountable.

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We must have a vibrant and strong Opposition because we have a Westminster system of government. We cannot be ignorant but responsible so this country will be strong.

Mr Speaker, this is my contribution because we all have gone through this before and when we talk on this Floor of Parliament, we must be careful. This is because this is an important institution because this highest place in our country and we must all respect it. Everybody here holds a public office and you are not destroying one person but you are destroying that office, so you need to have your facts right.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, this is my contribution to this discussion.

Mr GARRY JUFFA (Northern) – Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I wish to make a few comments in regards to some concerns that I have.

Most recently, we heard of the government buying a stake in the Solwara 1 Project and I understand that the government really had no choice but to succumb to threats of court actions and so forth. Therefore, the government had to enter into this arrangement.

I also understand that this is an investment in a profoundly new emerging technology that Papua New Guinea can have an opportunity to invest in. That is good but I just want remind us about the responsibilities of leaders.

We are elected by our people and when we go out there during election times and beg them to elect us, we tell them that we are going to lead, promote their interest and protect them. Protect from what, you may wonder? Well, we are supposed to protect them from all manner of characters that are going to emerge into our economy for we are the guardians of the gate. Our job is to screen people who come into the country and determine whether they are coming in to benefit our economy and people or to rape and plunder.

This happens and we cannot open our doors and abandon our people to the will and whim of whoever wants to come into the country. If we do so, then we are failing our fundamental responsibility to our people, and that is to protect and promote their interests for the current and future generations.

• In regards to the issue of Solwara 1, 20 000 signatures were placed on a petition and handed to the Mining Minister in October , 2012, at Holiday Inn. I was there and the Minister said within two weeks he would respond. Two weeks passed and there was still no response and to date there has still been no response. These 20 000 signatures represent our people from various coastal areas who are very concerned about this untested activity in the world. Many developed nations have refused to accommodate this activity because the unknowns are too great because learned scientists have warned against it. These developed nations with all the necessary resources in place to provide necessary checks and balances, and reaction if there was to be an accident of sorts have refused to accommodate this activity.

Therefore, how is it that we, a small developing country, should accept this? Why are we allowing ourselves to be the guinea pig? We do not even have the laws to regulate this activity. Our people have expressed their concerns in that petition and it is incumbent on us to respond to them. They are the very people we went and cried to and begged to be elected to come and fight corruption and bring development for them.

Nevertheless, when we get elected, we forget and leave them outside the doors of Parliament. Our people are then left behind with their and dreams and grievances while we come in here and do whatever we want. This is not how a leader is supposed to act because a leader is also supposed to listen to his or her people. This is what I believe we should be doing because I feel that these are the roles and responsibilities of leaders. Therefore, the Mining Minister still needs to respond to the 20 000 people who signed that petition.

For those of us who have coastal communities, these communities have expressed concerns because this activity will take place in an area where the sea currents can bring effects of this activity to our coastal communities. We are unsure of this because we are not scientists as we do not know anything about this activity. We also do not know what effects this activity will have on our marine resources.

• **27/04**

We have already received a report that the current exploration activities and the feasibility studies taking place are causing a lot of problems. What kind of effects will it have on our tuna stocks and the industry itself? Papua New Guinea is unique because we have the largest tuna stock in the world but we do not benefit as we should. This is because we do not understand the value of resources. This is one of our failures. We sell a pig in the market and if we are given 20 toea for a piece of pig ear, we give them and then we later fight over this

20 toea. We do not know the price of the pig. These sorts of things are happening and we, as leaders, are failing our people.

So if we are the guardians and keepers of the gate then we have fallen asleep. But not only that, we are also opening our doors and allowing all manner of people to come in. These are not only the genuine investors, there also criminals and terrorists that are being allowed into the country. We are even granting citizenships to some of them who are being hunted by other countries.

So, on the issue of citizenship, I want to say that our responsibility is to strengthen our statutory organisations and departments so that they can perform their duties effectively and efficiently. We must pay our Public Servants good salaries so they don't have to sleep in the settlements and villages and find it difficult to come to work. This arouses feelings that the government is not looking after them properly so they are not bothered about work. I am saying this from my experience as a Public Servant. They feel that they are treated like dogs to look after the house and if the owner of the house does not feed the dog, they go roaming on their own looking for food. So when the criminals come, they will easily break into the house because the owner of the house is out somewhere.

I want to say that it is good to welcome development, we need investors but we must stringently and carefully screen them. We must determine who is genuine and willing to come in and work with us on equitable partnership basis and pay us what is worth for our resources; not giving us a piece of ear of a pig and taking the rest away and letting us fight over this piece of ear.

It is about time to be intelligent because we are now living in a globalised world. There is much technology available where we can communicate in real time. We can be able to ascertain and determine facts, consult eminent scientist and learned persons before we make decisions. We must not open our doors and treat this nation as a common brothel. We cannot sell ourselves, our people and resources. That would be improper and unfair on our people; the very people who elected us to be leaders to protect and promote their interests. We must stand up with aggression and vigour to protect our interests both current and future.

Mr BEN MICAH (Kavieng – Minister for State Enterprise) – Mr Speaker, there are many men and women who advocate themselves as having access to secret and sacred knowledge that is given by God. Eventhough the Government is mandated by the people to make decisions; these particular people have some secret knowledge from some spiritual

realm where it makes them become guardians of sacred knowledge. Therefore, every time on Facebook and newspapers, they come out and criticise leaders and make us look like we are dumb and never went to school and that in Cabinet, there is no person who can read, listen and understand issues; whether they are just issues of explanation or technical in nature.

Today, I want to advise my brother, the Governor of Oro and all those people out there; many of them faceless and nameless in Facebook that in my Department of Public Enterprise, I have a biotech scientist who is the Secretary of the Department.

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We also have an industrial chemist in the Member of Obura-Wonenara, we have a geologist in a Member of Chuave, we have a lot of accountants, lawyers, economics and we have all kind of technical people in this Parliament in Cabinet. I want everybody to know that we make decisions not based on assumption or based on any other reasons.

Mr Speaker, I was one of those critics of the undersea mining when I was outside of Parliament, basically because I do not have information made available by the Department. I did not sit with the people of the Environment Department and when I did not consult the people from the Mining Department and that is why I never had a fair idea of what was going on with the deep sea mining.

Mr Speaker, for me to take all of you to understand and for my understanding of this project from certain depth of the ocean to the middle level that affects all different kinds of lives and above the surface of the sea is the loading ship, which receives the minerals pumped up into the ship to be taken to China to be processed.

Mr Speaker, I made my decision conscientiously in Cabinet to endorse and perform through this reasons because I understood the explanation that was given to me by scientists, engineers and by all kinds of technical people who are involve in different aspect of developing this project. I do not want a Member of Parliament or a single person outside thinks that the God gives you a secret knowledge. No, it's like we are mad or confused people who make these decisions without having the full knowledge of the effect of the mining.

Mr Garry Juffa – Point of Order! Mr Speaker, the Minister is making a reference to me and that is fine but to claim that I am receiving secret knowledge or spiritual information

et cetera is not right. Come on my Minister, we are talking about facts where there is concern and Mr Speaker, can you ask him to refrain from such statements.

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Governor, the Chair wants you to resume your seat. I believe it is a general statement and it is not directing at you. Your point of order is out of order.

Mr BEN MICAH – Mr Speaker, if our Governor for Northern feels not good then I withdraw my statement. However, I speak as a Minister who is responsible for Government Business and we have made conscientious decisions to endorse this project. But as a Member of Parliament, representing areas that are going to be directly impacted areas of this undersea mine.

Solwara 1 project is 30 kilometers west coast of New Ireland in Namatanai District. Solwara 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 is in my District of Keviang. Mr Speaker, I may want to tell you many things of this project but as for me, I have two main reasons to support this project to continue and be developed.

Firstly, my province is sitting on different kinds of minerals on the land and under the sea, besides that we also have marine resources like fish. I wish to say that we do not want to close the door to more advanced projects like this and that is for the good of our people and good for the mankind.

Mr Speaker, as the population of the world expands into big numbers, our world's resources will be deflected for our young generations. The land on the surface of the earth is going to be scarce. Mr Speaker, nothing must make us fearful of exploring the undersea. The future of the world and the people of the world is under the sea.

Mr Speaker, I suggest this idea because I want the future of PNG must in the front of the world through science, technology and knowledge. With the leadership of the Prime Minister and his Cabinet, the Somare Cabinet, O'Neill-Namah Cabinet and last Government and the Cabinet of O'Neil-Dion.

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The Cabinet of the Somare led Government, the last O'Neill-Namah Government and the current O'Neill-Dion Government. We have had so many scanning done already and

how many more are we going to undertake unless there is some scared knowledge that somebody out there knows that we don't know then, we will make a mistake. But there is not going to be any mistake.

I am bold enough to say like Columbus said some 700 or 400 years ago that the world is not flat, the world is round. And the church excommunicated him because the church was teaching that the world is flat. And he said, you are damned, you are going to Hell and he travelled around the world only because he had the courage to sail around the world and he discovered that the world is round and not flat.

So I dare say to you that the future of Papua New Guinea and my province and my beloved district of Kavieng is under the sea. And if I have an opportunity, Prime Minister you must allow me to go in submersible equipment or in a submarine to go down and observe the robots. There is no digging involved at all, it is called scooping because the gold undersea is everlasting. The robot does the scoping and there is no cyanide involved and it is piped up. I want Papua New Guinea to be the first.

Secondly, Prime Minister, your Government has made a big decision for us to partner with Nautilus Mineral on the IP, the International Property Rights of Robotic Technology. Robotic Technology will not only lead the future of the world into mining under the sea but when the undersea is finished, we can mine Mars, we can mine Jupiter and we can mine the moon and outer space back to the earth. But instead of going around the world, I am taking you under the sea.

Mr Speaker, I do not want any more sacred oracles or prophets or all sorts of people out there to go against the project. The O'Neill Dion Cabinet has already made a decision which the New Ireland Provincial Government has approved. The landowners from New Ireland and East Britain provinces are ready to receive royalties, it is not just the landowners from Lihir, Porgera and Ok Tedi that will benefit. The landowners from these two provinces must also benefit. I myself have an interest there as well and I declare it, Mr Speaker. And I don't want my brother, the Governor for Oro to be arguing about Nautilus. I will keep quiet when if Nautilus goes to your province. That also goes for Karkar as well.

Motion – That Grievances be noted – agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 12. 55 p.m..