

**EIGHTH DAY**

**Friday 16 May 2014**

**DRAFT HANSARD**

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## PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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Corrections should be authorised by signature and contain the name, office and telephone number of the person transmitting/making the corrections.

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Corrections should relate only to inaccuracies. New matter may not be introduced.



Sarufa M. Haro

Principal Parliamentary Reporter

## EIGHTH DAY

Friday 16 May 2014

The Speaker (**Mr Theo Zurenouc**) took the Chair at 10.00 a.m..

### WANT OF QUORUM

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

Sitting suspended.

Mr Speaker, again took the Chair and invited the Governor for Eastern Highland, **Honourable Julie Soso** to say Prayers:

'Papa God, yu stap na mipela stap. Papa God, yu givim dispel luksave ken long yu, Papa God. Papa God, yu God blong Papua Niugini. Papa God, mipla putim pinis insait long *Constitution* blong mipela na mipla luksave pinis long yu olsem yu God blong Papua Niugini na Papua Niugini is a place where Papa God yu gat domain long em.

Papa God, mi laik tok tenk yu long dispela taim na bringim mipela olgeta Memba blong dispel Palamen ikam before long yu. Papa God, that yu yet bai yu spik long mipela na helpim mipela long andastandim yu. Helpim mipla long save wanem plen yu gat long dispel kantri blong mipela, beautiful country blong mipela Papua Niugini. Why u givim planti gutpla gutpla blessing we mipla sidaun antap long dispel blessing na mipla irepresentim dispel seven million plus pipol blong mipla kam sidaun insait long dispela Haus long mekim disisen long gutpla blong ol, na long mekim disisen long managim dispeia gutpla gutpla blessing we yu putim antap long dispela nesen blong mipla.

Papa God, mipla nidim yu, Papa God, tru tumas mipla save kainkain spirit em iwok long dispela graun, Papa God, mipla nidim spirit blong yu we Holi Spirit blong yu yet iken lidim na gaidim mipla Papa God, that every decisions that mipla make antap long dispela posisens mipla holim long em na ol pablik sevens blong mipla long wanwan leadership positions ol holim long em,

Papa God, ol desisens mipla mekim, mipla mas igo wantaim bel na tingting blong yu Papa God. Papa God, mi tok tenk yu na bringim mipla olgeta ikam before yu na presentim dispela nesen blong mipela na pipol blong dispel nesen na risoses blong dispela nesen ikam bek long han blong yu.

Papa God, mipla tok tenk yu pinis long fes shipment blong LNG em igo aut, Papa God, mipla appreciatim yu moa yet na tok tenk yu na Papa long dispela taim tu mi askim yu, yu helpim mipela Papa God, long bilip antap long dispela prea we Jisas yet em lidim mipla na prea pinis long em. Papa God, emi gat mining insait long dispela prea so helpim mipela long understandim dispela mining so that each one of us also Papa God bai establishim kingdom blong yu insait long liklik hauslain blong mipela insait long 22 pela provins. Papa God, helpim mipela wantaim prea Jisas ipre long em. Amen.'

## QUESTIONS

**Mr RONNY KNIGHT** – Thank you, Mr Speaker for acknowledging the people of Manus. My question will go to the Minister for Correctional Services and I would like the Prime Minister to take note.

Mr Speaker, Manus has put its hand up when other districts shy from the construction and implementation of our new maximum security prison in our Nigerum LLG and this is despite heavy criticism from many elite Manusians.

Mr Speaker, my reasons for these are completely clear and in my people's interest. A large project can only better the living standards of this isolated people by providing vital infrastructure and basic services that they have been missing for many years.

Mr Speaker, after yesterday's question to the Minister and the public concern over escapes from prisons my questions simply are:

- (1) What is the status of the project, the Maximum Security Prison?
- (2) When can we expect construction to begin?

Mr Speaker, I believe this prison is the answer to question of our escapes.

**Mr JIM SIMATAB** – Thank you Mr Speaker, I thank the Member of Manus for asking these two questions.

Mr Speaker, through you, I want to inform the Member for Manus that discussions on this maximum security prison is underway.

02/10

The Government also had discussions to set up a maximum prison on an island and they proposed that Manus would be a suitable place to set it up.

Mr Speaker, in terms of status and plans, we are yet to decide when this maximum security prison will be established. The Government has yet to decide whether the unit will be set up in Manus or at Bomana.

The Correctional Service has plans to establish three prisons in Manus, New Ireland and Sandaun province respectively in the next three years. As for Manus, a portion of land has been identified and the department has engaged surveyors to survey that land which is located outside the town and that has been done. We had a problem with that surveying because when the detention centre was set up in Manus that surveying company was lured by the huge benefits and left us to carry out survey for the establishment of the detention centre as a result the work on our side has been stagnant. The funds have been paid to the surveyor and everything is in place and we are waiting for that surveyor to complete their work. In terms of spin off benefits, it is true that there will be benefits.

**Mr POWES PARKOP** - Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs but I believe that the Minister for National Planning is also able to answer it. My question relates to management and how foreign aid, both bilateral and multilateral, is being managed in our country. Aid has been part of our development well before independence and we are grateful, but the way it is being managed especially how it is implemented at the at the community level can leave a lot to be desired especially when they are setting up things on their own.

The Minister should know there is an international agreement on how aid is managed in a recipient country. *The Paris Declaration* requires that the donors must go through the Government and in-country, we have the *Kavieng Accord* which reinforces the *Paris Declaration*.

My concern is that some of the aid agencies, multilateral and bilateral, are running parallel programs in the country.

03/08

They are carrying out their programs on the ground and not in partnership with the Government. Therefore, I do not know if the Government is aware or managing or monitoring their activities and if they are meeting the outcomes of our people.

Mr Speaker, a classical example of a nation is Rwanda. This country has recovered from the disastrous impacts of genocide. This is because of how it has managed its donor fundings. Therefore, donor funding can have a lot of impact in the development of our people and achieve government outcomes.

My questions to the Minister are:

(1) Is there a mechanism in your Department or your colleague Department of National Planning that monitors and coordinates the use of donor funding so that it is targeted and prioritised to achieve outcomes?

(2) What mechanisms are in place to make sure that funding for activities are in accordance with the *Paris Declaration and Kavieng Accord*?

This is so that they are not working outside of government and running a parallel system and when the money runs out, we do not what is happening to the programs.

(3) Can the Minister in liaison with his colleague, Minister for National Planning, present to Parliament a report on all donor funding in the country for the last five years?

This is so that we will know what they are doing and the outcomes they have achieved, and whether they are in parallel with the Government's Objectives and Development Goals.

Mr Speaker, some of the multilateral and bilateral agencies and I can mention one but I will not. For some of us at the provincial level, trying to access their funding, is like getting blood out of stone. It is practically impossible and it makes you wonder if they are here to support government programs and priorities or that they are here to run their own parallel programs.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Charles Abel** – Point of Order! I am the Minister responsible for aid and the Development Budget. Therefore, I can answer the questions.

**Mr SPEAKER** – Very well, the questions shall be re-directed to the National Planning Minister. Minister, you may answer the questions.

**Mr CHARLES ABEL** – Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I thank the Governor of NCD for his questions.

Mr Speaker, Parliament will recall that on Wednesday, I believe, a similar question was raised, and in fact it has been raised in the week before but my memory fails me. Nevertheless, a similar question was raised to me by the Member for Nuku regarding aid effectiveness, and in particular, the translation of aid down to the district and local levels. And the lack of consultation from our development partners especially our aid partners when they conduct their activities. In fact, many of us do not know what the aid partners are doing particularly, down at the district level.

Therefore, I took some time to answer that question and I do not know if the Governor was present at that time. Some of the things I will be repeating and I will try not to take too long. I acknowledge the Governor's questions and the similar issues that you are raising in terms of aid coordination, effectiveness, principles, *the Paris Declaration* and *the Kavieng Accord* that you mentioned. And the general concern is if they are aligning with our principles, our planes and how effective is the aid money being spent.

Mr Speaker, I will repeat what I had said. On the outset, we have got good partners in the international community, partners like JICA, the Australian Government, United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU) that give generously to our country. Much of these aids are grant funding and given without conditions in many cases. With some of the multilateral and bilateral partners the money is given with concessional terms, and I want to say on the outset that, we continue to remain grateful to those partners for providing that money and assisting us in our development efforts.

I would also like to say that, there have been many good outcomes from many of these programs. Also, some of us have to admit that down at our district levels some of the outcomes that we are seeing are very effective. Some of them are also better than our own systems of Government in delivering these programs.

That is not to say that it is necessarily a good thing. Of course it is not but in our efforts to get goods and services to our people, we need to learn from some of these new methods. We need to be innovative and take advantage of some of these examples that some of these aid and donor programs are doing. At the same time, we must acknowledge that it is our systems of government, as a sovereign nation that should be delivering these programs.

04/08

It is all about partnership and delivering better outcomes. As I have said, since our Government came into Office, we have been revisiting this principle by going back to each of our partners and trying to improve the policy.

Mr Speaker, an example that I will give is that, under the joint understanding, there is a reason for the monarchy arrangement and the directions through Cabinet and our Prime Minister is that, we want to better focus aid to make it more aligned with our principles on things like concentrating on infrastructure, reduction of technical assistance and more visibility around the program. Countless various programs are spread across the country and often the results are bit questionable and not visible and not in consultation with our process.

So our Government has initiated that through this joint understanding with the Australian Government, we want to demonstrate it. This is why we see the K420 million that has risen out of this understanding. It has only concentrated on a number of projects like the Enga Hospital so we said that if we can concentrated on fixing up the Port Moresby General Hospital, can the Australian Government come and fix-up Enga Hospital as our next major referral hospital or instead of trying to parch all the roads around the country, can the Australian Government come in and upgrade the Ramu-Madang Highway? Can they also concentrate on building the lower ports or can they come into the university and concentrate on fixing that institution in terms of infrastructure rather than trying to spread all over the place? And of course, we have the Australian Police coming in to assist as well. Therefore, we want to use that as an example with the Australian arrangement to better focus and align our programs.

In terms of activities down at the district and provincial level, I have insisted that these development partners, we at the national level must work in consultation with the provincial and district level. This is because our Government is allocating a lot of money into programs down there so there's no point in conducting separate programs when we are already conducting major programs such as infrastructure, health, education, law and justice, growing the economy as well as community development.

In my Alotau District, some of our development partners are running their own programs which are not part of the government planning process.

So Governor, there are things happening at a higher level in terms of aligning and I have just had a lot of meetings and negotiations with the European Union. They are now responding positively and aligning with our plans. And in each of the meetings we are having, our plans and processes will not change but it is a matter of how we engage in better aligning ourselves.

There is also a question of direct budget support for example and how do we start to move back the situation once we repair our government systems where we want it to become direct Budget support rather than separate and parallel program being run on the side. But we will move gradually back to that sort of stance and in the meantime we are concentrating very hard on improving the alignments and coordination we have been lacking over the years. Thank you.

**Mr BENJAMIN PHILIP** – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I direct my questions to the Minister for Environment and Conservation and Climate Change. My questions relate to my deep concern over my observations and experiences regarding the level of funding that are currently being used by some of the NGOs that do not deliver tangible outcomes for our people.

(1) Can the Minister explain to Parliament how we can rectify this obstacle towards development?

**Mr James Potape** – Point of Order! Mr Speaker, we have two different Ministries; Environment and Conservation is one Ministry and Forestry and Climate Change is another Ministry.

**Mr SPEAKER** – Honourable Member, your Point of Order is out of order. He is correct in directing his question to the Minister for Environment and Conservation.

05/08

**Mr BENJAMIN PHILIP** – Thank you Mr Speaker. Secondly, I would like to bring to your attention that we live in a time when the global community recognises the importance of protecting bio-diversity and the Climate Change funds which, are diverted to assist climate vulnerable communities.

(2) Can the landowners who are custodians of their customary land enter into a trade arrangement in exchange for the conservation of their natural forest and biodiversity resources which is on their land?

**Mr JOHN PUNDARI** – I thank the honourable Member for his questions. May I also inform Parliament at this juncture that I am also the Minister for Climate Change? I am grateful to the Prime Minister that we are able to now coordinate and better able to manage conservation, biodiversity and climate change in the country.

Mr Speaker, from the outset, I will answer those important questions by saying this, that we all must appreciate the fact that our people, that includes you, the Chair and myself and all of us in this Chamber and the people in the Gallery are the custodians of our land and they are the owners of our biodiversity, either territorial or marine ecosystems leave them out in of protecting that biodiversity of conserving, we will miss the mark and we'll not achieve any interest in trying to conserve and protect the biodiversity. Our landowners and our people are to be our partners if we are to see sustainable protected areas in this country.

Mr Speaker, having said that, let me answer the questions by saying this. There are people out there in the international foyer that provide grants in the interests of protecting and conserving biodiversity. There are conventional ways of channelling funds in this country in the interests of conservation is not achieving its results. Any Member of Parliament tell me where the success story is where we are partnering with our landowners and there are successful outcomes of protected areas?

Mr Speaker, I ask again; where is it? For so many years, there have been so much funds in the interests of biodiversity protection in this country that have been channelled through but management mediums in this country have for so long being engaged with foreign NGOs in the country and where have all the millions gone to? These grants are earmarked for the people of this country and to protect the biodiversity without partnership of our people.

Without partnership of our people we will never see sustainable protected biodiversity in our country. If I make this on a scale of between a 100 in so far as real outcomes are concerned for your benefit, I would give it a 0.01 per cent. There is nothing but millions in US dollars have reached our shores and there is nothing to show for it.

Mr Speaker, if there is anything to show for it, you only hear about studies and reports that tell us that our country is a great country, that we have a unique biodiversity of about 7 per cent of the global biodiversity, so I am saying that the conventional way in which we

have been managing those donor funds from our international donors will have to change now.

**06/08**

There's got to be a new financial governance framework, a framework that has to win the confidence of the international community as well as the domestic community.

Mr Speaker, one example is that we would want to invite the Global Environment Fund managers in the country to be a part of a fund management modeling structure where agencies of government like Environment and Conservation, Climate Change can be able to provide advice, guidance and technical support and be able to assist in a process that ensures that we partner well with our people and see real tangible developments taking place on the ground.

Mr Speaker, if we do not promote income incentives for our people in protected areas, our people are not going to forego areas for conservation. Sorry about that. They need money in their pockets, shelters over their heads, send their children to school with good clothing and so on.

Who is going to come up and say, I've got some land here, we will make some meaningful contribution and tell the global community that Papua New Guinea can be reckoned and counted. They'd rather cut the trees down and plant some oil palm.

Mr Speaker, that is the reason why we need to see how best we can create some form and industry of eco-tourism around protected areas so our people can say, listen we will work closely with you. Yes, there are some incomes we already gain and we are happy and we are working on these areas.

Mr Speaker, coming to the second question, yes, you can conserve for bio-diversity protection, you can also conserve for carbon stock. Carbon stock is something that you can measure and can also trade your carbon stock in some European Carbon Trading Schemes.

You can go and measure your carbon stock but if there is no –

**Mr SPEAKER** – There is a Point of Order, Honourable Minister –

**Mr JOHN PUNDARI** – You will never get any where.

**Mr SPEAKER** – Honorable Minister, you are willfully disregarding the authority of the Chair.

**Mr Jim Kas** – Point of Order! The Minister is supposed to be protecting our environment, he is contradicting himself.

**Mr SPEAKER** – What's your Point of Order?

**Mr Jim Kas** – That's my Point of Order.

**Mr SPEAKER** – Honourable Governor, please resume your seat, Minister please shorten your answer.

**Mr John Simon** – Point of Order! I'd like to say to this Parliament and the Minister as well. We need to respect the Chair. We have people coming in here and I came into the Parliament and I have been watching. A lot of times when the Speaker gives an order and talks to some of the Ministers, they don't listen; they continue to drag on and on and on. We are here to ask questions as well. Our question time is limited. You get to the point, answer the question, sit down and we'll ask questions.

**Mr SPEAKER** – Thank you, honourable Member for Maprik.

**Mr JOHN PUNDARI** – Mr Speaker, I think I am very well informing all honourable Members of this Parliament the importance of protection our environment.

**Mr SPEAKER** – You can bring a Statement to the Floor of the Parliament, honourable Minister.

**Mr JOHN PUNDARI** – Mr Speaker, I am coming to the second part of the question and before I sit down, the Governor for Madang was quite out of order.

**Mr SPEAKER** – Honourable Minister, you direct your statement to the Chair please.

**Mr JOHN PUNDARI** – Yes, Mr Speaker, respectfully, you can conserve to stop you carbon, the carbon that you can trade, but what I am saying is, without that income stream for our people the carbon stock that we have will come to nothing.

The Office of Climate Change is now going through a process.

**Mr Belden Namah** – Point of Order! Mr Speaker, I would advise the Minister to prepare a Ministerial Statement on Carbon Trade and Climate Change in this country rather than dragging on and taking up too much time for questions.

**Mr SPEAKER** – Your point of order is in order, I will not allow the honourable Minister to continue. Please resume your seat. We will go to the next and also these will be no further question in regard to this.

**07/08**

**Mr SAM BASIL** – Thank you, Mr Speaker, I direct my questions to the Minister for Private Enterprise.

Mr Speaker, last week the Minister was directed a question, legal nature of which he answered and I would now like to the questions to clear some air. As a responsible Parliament, we have to bring those issues up and I do not expect unnecessary points of order.

Also, Mr Speaker, I would like to advise the Minister through the Chair that the questions that I am about to ask do not relate to the operations of PNG Power. We understand PNG Power's problems and woes. We are only questioning the process, procedures and confirmations.

Mr Speaker, my questions are:

(1) Can the Minister tell this Parliament and the people of Papua New Guinea whether or not there was in place a supply and purchase agreement between PNG Power and Israel General Electric or between the Independent State of Papua New Guinea and the Israel General Electric for the supply of two 26.2 megawatt gas turbine power generators, with the NEC funding of K94 million on 25 February, 2014.

(2) The LRla Group, in a public advertisement on yesterday's *Post-Courier* on page

36, stated that the K50 million paid to it in December 2013 was a deposit on two 15 megawatts generators which he claims was later revised and upgraded to two 26.2 megawatts generators. Can he confirm or deny this statement?

(3) If the K50 million paid to the LRLa Group in December 2013 was deposited then the K50 million plus the K94 million approved by NEC in February 2014 gives you a total of K144 million. Does he, therefore, agree or disagree with the total cost of the two 26.2 generators are worth a total of K144 million?

(4) If your answer is in the affirmative then why has the Minister and the Prime Minister not disclosed to Cabinet the K50 million deposited in the NEC submission that they both co-signed?

(5) Can he also inform this Parliament the reason why the Minister and the Prime Minister as co-authors of the NEC submission did not disclose to the Cabinet the total cost of the two generators was actually in the vicinity of K144 million and not K94 million as the Cabinet was made to believe.

(6) The Opposition has information that PNG Power is about to pay a further K8 million allegedly for spare parts, taking the grand total of the two generator to a massive K152 million. Given this very large amount of public money for the two generators, can he tell this Parliament and the people of Papua New Guinea as why public tender was not called for the competitive bidding?

Finally, we understand that the Chief Legal Officer of the IPBC, Erastus Kambori, is now writing to seek legal advise and clearance from the Attorney General's Office .

(7) Can the Minister deny or confirm that during the last questions asked to him, he lied to this Parliament that legal clearance was sought?

**Mr BEN MICAH** – To give justice to these long and very detailed questions, I ask the Deputy Opposition Leader to put them on the Question Paper so that I can respond to his questions in detail.

**Mr EREMAN TOBAINING JNR**– Thank you for recognizing the people of Kokopo and East New Britain. I direct my question to the Minister for Health, Honourable Michael Malabag and I ask the Ministers for Finance, Planning and Lands to take note. Before I ask my question, I would like to brief you on the background information.

In 2011, an amount of K10 million under the Development Budget was released to Nonga Department of Health to a regional specialist hospital for the New Guinea Islands. This follows a decision by the National Executive Council early in 2001 to relocate specialist function away from the current site of Nonga following the 1994 volcanic eruption.

Mr Speaker, from the K10 million K4 million, was given to the current Nonga Hospital for the major maintenance. It was completed this year, 2014.

**08/08**

Mr Speaker, it is being completed the year since 2011.

In addition since 2013, the Development Budget of K5 million was released to the National Department of Health for such purposes. Recently, the Government announced K20 million for the new Niugini Hospital Development.

Mr Speaker, in 2012 the ENB Provincial Executive Council after rescinding its two earlier decisions to relocate to Gabaira at Unadidir and Putput on the South-Coast and endorsed Vairiki Plantation has a new hospital development site as the per the PEC Decision contributing to the movement from Gabaira to Unadidir initially that Putput to the South-Coast part of the Corridor Development program and finally settling in Vairiki Plantation.

Mr Speaker, my PEC has not change any decision upon the decision that was made by the PEC. The Provincial Administration ensured that the land will not become the impediment to the project development by working with the landowners and the National Lands Department has executed and released the two separate titles for two land portions that have now being effective and effected. In fact, my Provincial Government has paid 90 per cent of land purchase payment for a 40 hectares out of Vairiki Planation needed for the hospital development. Sadly, we are still waiting for that funding for the project.

Mr Speaker, the direction to the Committee to release the K4 million has been done, grabbing work of the 10 hectares has been done, for the 40 hectors signing of the MoU outstanding has been done, signing of the contract of sale agreement has been done and all instalment payment for land acquisition of K3 million has been done too.

Mr Speaker, portion 5560 SL 21-175 and other portion.

**Mr SPEAKER** – Honourable Governor, can you ask your question.

**Mr EREMAN TOBAINING Jnr** – Mr Speaker, I will ask my question but I want to highlight to the Minister, before this funding will be re-diverted to somewhere. My two questions are as follow:

(1) Can the Minister tell the people of East New Britain and this Parliament when the K20 million will be released to the province while we are expecting development of the project? With a number of national and international events ending within the next few years, some of which will be hosted in East New Britain Province.

(2) Can the Nonga Base Hospital remain as it is to be the provincial hospital while waiting for the funding? Because we, the District and the Provincial Government have a plan for it to be a district hospital in the province. Meanwhile it will serve as a provincial hospital while waiting for the funding for the new hospitals.

**Mr MICHAEL MALABAG** – Mr Speaker, thank you and I thank the Member for Kokopo and Governor of East New Britain for his two important questions.

Of course, we should give short and precise answers to all the questions but sometimes you've got to give justification to the questions that are raised.

Mr Speaker, the Nonga Based Hospital is the current Provincial Hospital for East New Britain Province and also the Referral Hospital for the New Guinea Island Region.

In 1994, during the eruption of mountain Tavuvur, it destroyed the hospital and some of the services were transferred to Vunapope Base Hospital in Kokopo and the nearby health centres to manage.

Mr Speaker, for the last 20 years, the Department of Health wanted to relocate the hospital from Nonga to elsewhere within the province. However, the process of identifying the suitable location has been dragging for sometimes now. Previously, it was suggested for Guraiba and then Putput. Later on, the PEC of the Governor set it for Vairiki Plantation and that is alright.

Mr Speaker, the services will still be provide at the Nonga Base Hospital and I wish to inform this Parliament and the people of ENB that the Government plans to relocate the hospital and has appropriated K35 million from 2011 till now.

09/08

Most of the funds are still there. K4 million was used for some renovation and infrastructure for Nonga Hospital. I have instructed my department secretary to negotiate with the Catholic Church to declare Vunapope as the provincial hospital for East New Britain until we build a proper hospital for the province and the NGI region.

Mr Speaker, the declaration of Vunapope, along with Tari, Kudjip, Gerehu and Buka are soon to be declared as provincial hospitals, once NEC approves my submissions. But at the same time, I want to request other provincial governments to join me in the roll out of provincial health authorities. Reform in your respective provinces must take place, so that together, we can manage our hospitals and rural health services under the one health system, including East New Britain.

Mr Speaker, once Vunapope is declared as the Provincial Hospital.

**Mr Ereman ToBaining Jnr** –Point of Order! I am not talking about Vunapope. I am talking about when the K20 million will be released to East New Britain.

**Mr SPEAKER** – Minister, can you get to the point and answer the question.

**Mr MICHAEL MALABAG** – I said there is money available and we will give it to the Governor but I want to know where the Provincial Hospital will be located then we will release the funds to him. K4 million alone was used for Nonga. A provincial relocation committee is in place to plan and manage the relocation and transition arrangement.

All concerned parties are on the Committee, this includes -

**Mr SPEAKER** – Honourable Member, you have answered the question, please resume your seat. You and the Honourable Governor can spend some time and answer his questions, we will have to move on.

**Mr GISUWAT SINIWAN** – Thank you, Mr Speaker, for acknowledging the people of Nawae. I have only two questions directed to the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister responsible for Inter-Government Relations is not present so I direct them to the Prime Minister.

(1) Can the Prime Minister, tell the people of Nawae, Huon Gulf and Lae Open electorates for the confusion over electoral boundaries, Lae open to cater for Huon Gulf and Nawae areas within the city boundaries in Lae open then in Nawae and Huon Gulf electorate?

Places like Igam Barracks, East and West Taraka, the market and 2 mile are all in the Huon Gulf, while Kamkumung, Linki, Bumayong, back roads and the Malahang industrial areas are in Nawae electorates.

(2) Can the Prime Minister, tell the nation what is the latest development on the update of our common roll in all the districts in the country?

(3) If it is not done can it be fas-tracked?

**Mr PETER O'NEILL** –Thank you, Mr Speaker and I also thank the Member for Nawae for his important questions on the electoral boundaries and the common roll.

**Mr EREMAN TOBAINING Jnr** – Mr Speaker, I will ask my question but I want to highlight to the Minster, before this funding will be re-diverted to somewhere. My two questions are as follow:

(4) Can the Minister tell the people of East New Britain and this Parliament when the K20 million will be released to the province while we are expecting development of the project? With a number of national and international events rending within the next few years, some of which will be hosted in East New Britain Province.

(5) Can the Nonga Base Hospital remain as it is to be the provincial hospital while waiting for the funding? Because we, the District and the Provincial Government have a plan for it to be a district hospital in the province. Meanwhile it will serve as a provincial hospital while waiting for the funding for the new hospitals.

**Mr MICHAEL MALABAG** – Mr Speaker, thank you and I thank the Member for Kokopo and Governor of East New Britain for his two important questions.

Of course, we should give short and precise answers to all the questions but sometimes you've got to give justification to the questions that are raised.

Mr Speaker, the Nonga Based Hospital is the current Provincial Hospital for East New Britain Province and also the Referral Hospital for the New Guinea Island Region.

In 1994, during the eruption of mountain Tavuvur, it destroyed the hospital and some of the services were transferred to Vunapope Hospital in Kokopo and the nearby health centres to manage.

Mr Speaker, for the last 20 years, the Department of Health wanted to relocate the hospital from Nonga to elsewhere within the province. However, the process of identifying the suitable location has been dragging for sometimes now. Previously, it was suggested for Guraiba and then Putput. Later on, the PEC of the Governor set it for Vairiki Plantation and that is alright.

Mr Speaker, the services will still be provide at the Nonga Base Hospital and I wish to inform this Parliament and the people of ENB that the Government plans to relocate the hospital and has appropriated K35 million from 2011 till now.

**10/08**

**Mr PETER O'NEILL** - I would like to thank the Honourable Member for Nawae for his questions. These are very important questions concerning our electoral boundaries in our respective districts and provinces throughout the country.

Mr Speaker, this question was asked by one of our honourable Members earlier and I want to inform this honourable Parliament that the Electoral Boundaries Commission has been directed by the Chief Secretary through the Electoral Commissioner to establish an Electoral Boundaries Commission shortly, they will be announcing the membership of that Commission and then they will go out and do the necessary consultations that they will go out and to try and withdraw the boundaries throughout the country.

Mr Speaker, we want to bring that report to this honourable Parliament well before the 2017 Elections so that Parliament can deliberate on it and that the demarcations of each of the boundaries are clearly defined before we go to the elections.

Mr Speaker, on the second question on whether the Common Rolls are updated, I would also like to assure and thank this honourable Parliament that yesterday the Minister for National Planning brought in a Legislation that will pave way for the National ID Program. The program is well and truly underway this year. This will be the beginning of the registration process of many of our citizens throughout the country and the ID Program will then work together with then

Common Roll so by 2017 so that proper identification processes are established before we go to the voting. So, that work is well and truly underway.

Mr Speaker, I want to assure this honourable Parliament that it will be established before 2017. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

### Supplementary Question

**Mr NIXON MANAPE** – My supplementary question to the Prime Minister is the same as the one asked by the Member for Nawaia. My electorate is the most populated area with almost 150 plus population, so I would like to ask this honourable House to give their attention to the people of Lagaip-Pogera first. Thank you

Mr Speaker – Thank you, Member, I think the Prime Minister has already answered that question in his reply to the Member for Nawaia.

**Mr JIM KAS** (Governor for Madang) - Thank you, Mr Speaker. My questions are directed to the Environment and Conservation Minister.

Mr Speaker, I believe that the Minister is very well aware that there are three canyons under the sea of Basimuk, where Ramu Nickel is depositing the Mine tailings. The University of Papua New Guinea and the Research Organization in France have been conducting surveys in the Basimuk Bay since 2010. In 2010, they found and established some baseline data for that particular area. The NCC are saying that from their modeling that when DSP is put on one side of the canyons, the other two canyons in the east and west will not be affected but from the recent surveys that were carried out, about two months ago, as witnesses the Member for Usin – Bundi and myself confirms the canyons are now affected, east and west of where the DSP is being dumped.

(1) Mr Minister, will you confirm or deny that these things are happening under the sea at Basimuk? Because it is only two years of this operation and the canyons are being affected, when it was assumed that the canyons east and west of the main canyon will not be affected.

(2) I would like to ask the Minister if he is aware and if he can take measures to conduct independent studies to establish the fact that such is happening at Basimuk because the mine is going to be there for thirty or forty years? Thank you.

11/08

**Mr JOHN PUNDARI** (Minister for Environment and Conservation) – the Governor for Madang likes short answer so this will be a short answer.

Mr Speaker, I would be interested in those assessments whoever they are whether they are independent parties or they have been engaged by the Morobe Government or the District for that matter on behalf of the people of Madang.

Mr Speaker, I will get my Department to assess that and if there is a need for further studies to be done I will inform the Governor of Madang accordingly.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

### GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Question proposed –

That Grievances be noted.

**Mr SPEAKER** – Minister, I will interrupt you there. I would like to inform all the Members of Parliament that during question time we have to be specific with questions, and as well with answering questions.

We need to give an opportunity to every one of us. Many questions are supposed to be asked during Question Time. That is the only time that we all will be getting answers from Ministers.

**Mr Jim Kas** – Point of Order! What is happening?

**Mr SPEAKER** – Honourable Governor, I am just giving out some notices concerning how we conduct our question time.

Minister for Environment and Conservation you can – I do not want to carry on this debate, honourable leader, I apologise.

I did not ask for a debate here honourable leader, it is a privilege of the Chair that I am exercising here.

Therefore, Minister for Environment and Conservation you can express your grievance now.

**Mr JOHN PUNDARI** (Kompiam-Ambum – Minister for Environment and Conservation) – Mr Speaker, I know that I have only 10 minutes to speak. Therefore, my grievance here, is that I would like to provide some clarity to the answer for the –

**Mr Belden Namah** – Point of Order! The Governor of East Sepik has been standing there –

*(Sir Michael Somare interjecting)*

**Mr SPEAKER** – Honourable Governor, I interrupted the proceedings to allow the Minister for Environment and Conservation to –

*(Mr Belden Namah interjecting)*

**Mr SPEAKER** – I made a point here. Minister for Environment and Conservation you may continue.

*(Mr Belden Namah interjecting)*

**Mr JOHN PUNDARI** – I apologise to the Chair for this interruption.

Mr Speaker, I do not have a lot to say. This is just for clarification for the honourable Members of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, I have a big problem as the Minister for environment and Conservation with issues of ensuring that our people partner with my Department. This is so that we can see some real benefit streams following to our landowners, especially, to our people as custodians of our bio-diversity.

Mr Speaker, the conventional way that we bring money into the country while trying to protect our bio-diversity and conserve our carbon stock, I see that this is no longer happening. The reason is because the realities on the ground are too small and it is not a time when the challenge is of an urgent nature.

Mr Speaker, I would like to say that this is an emergency.

Mr Speaker, I said that this was an emergency to the administrator of the United Nations (UN) when Helen Clark visited our country a few weeks ago.

Mr Speaker, it is an emergency because there are a lot of funds that are wasted without any tangible outcomes.

Mr Speaker, the Global Environment Fund and other funds to the Climate Change Office –

**Mr Belden Namah** – Point of Order! The Minister has the opportunity to bring such issues during – he has a privilege during ministerial statements, give opportunity to the backbenchers who can debate national issues.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**12/08**

**Mr SPEAKER** – Honourable Leader of the Opposition, as this is a Grievance Debate, the Chair recognised him because he was the first to rise from his seat. Every Member has a right to speak during Grievance Debate so he has that opportunity now so please allow the Minister to continue.

**Mr JOHN PUNDARI** – If the Leader of the Opposition does not want to listen to my Grievance Debate then I will sit down so that he will present his grievances.

Mr Speaker, with respect to the Chair, I think I agree with the Point of Order raised by the Leader of the Opposition and I will bring a detailed statement to Parliament in due course, so I reserve my right to debate later.

**Mr MALAKAI TABAR** (Gazelle) – Mr Speaker, I rise to express some of my issues in this Grievance Debate. In Parliament, we often talk about issues concerning the conduct of Police Force in their line of duties, which always appears in the media. I believe the Government is not effectively organising itself to assist the Police personnel in the Department of Police as well as the Department of Community Development in its responsibility in conduct counseling and rehabilitation programs. When Police personnel are called out to some problematic areas, we must know that they are also human beings as what the CIS Minister was trying to explain the other day. We are dealing with human beings, and

it is a responsibility that we can do some psychological work on their behaviour or their attitudes and characters so that we rehabilitate them before their next engagement.

We can stand in Parliament and complain about their conduct and read a report of reports in the newspapers but if reflects the failure of line agencies in the government to organise and help them. We must have these concerns and responsibility to correct our Police personnel who enforce our law and order in the country.

The costs that have been incurred by the Police Department in trying to settle compensation to the people that were beaten, houses burnt to the ground and damaged properties is substantial. I do not know whether the Police Department can give us an exact figure but that money could be well spent if the line departments like Personnel Management, Community Development and Police can organise themselves to conduct rehabilitation and counseling programs from the Police personnel in their barracks and stations.

The other day, the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General presented a cheque to a group that visits the prisons and conducts counseling for the prisoners. I think it is high time the Government does something to help the line agencies of government especially the Department of Community Development and church based organisations to organise themselves in the respective stations and barracks in the provinces and provide counseling and rehabilitation programs to the Police personnel as they have been continuously called out to very difficult hot spots for law and order problems.

The conduct of the Police Force which we stand in Parliament and complain and also which appears constantly in the newspapers is because they are under a lot of pressure as they are always called out to problem spots. As a government, we need to be aware of our responsibility in how we are going to assist them and equip with weapons. This is one part of the assistance but the other part will be to counsel and rehabilitate them and prepare them for their next engagement.

**13/08**

This is one of the major areas affecting the Police that the Government needs to look at and address especially in partnership with the churches. There is a Police Chaplaincy Program but I don't know how far this is working. This is apart from conducting weddings and church services every Sunday at the Police Barracks.

I think it is more than that, it is basically trying to organise them into small clubs and groups and trying to help them as they come out from problematic areas in their line of duty and as they prepare for their next engagement, they need to go through some program where their psychological and mental state of mind is stable. When they return from their duties and when we don't help them to de-stress, they take it out on their wives, families and even destroy living quarters and property. And we come back to the Parliament and complain about the housing of Police personnel in our respective districts.

Mr Speaker, I think it is time that the line agencies work together to assist Police personnel in how they conduct themselves in the line of duty.

**Mr JOSEPH SUNGI (Nuku)** – Mr Speaker, I rise to contribute in this Grievance Debate. My grievance is related to the equal distribution of wealth and the systems used to do this. We have all the systems in place but I think we need to do a lot more in terms of making sure that our wealth is equally distributed, not by definition in terms of equal as we see it today, especially with the Provincial Support Improvement Program (PSIP), DSIP, K10 million each to the 89 districts and also the K500 thousand to the LLGSIP.

Mr Speaker, I see that we can do better according to the *Constitution* where we need to look at the actual cost of delivering that service to our people. Right now, I don't think it is as equal as that because the same amount of money of K10 million goes to all the districts. For example, we have the National District Electorates getting K10 million each and you look at Telefomin district in Sandaun or Samarai-Murua in Milne Bay and all the other very remote districts where the K10 million will not be enough compared to the actual cost of their development projects.

Mr Speaker, a system or a formula has already been done by the National Economic and Fiscal Commission (NEFC), and we need to adopt this system so that we can see the benefits flowing out to the entire country rather than using K10 million across the board. This is because K10 million across the board is actually not equal when you look at the cost of health services, and even the transport infrastructure that we have now. For example, the cost of building a classroom in Lae, Madang or even Vanimo is not the same as the cost of building a classroom out in the very remote school.

So, as a Government, I think we need to really change as we see the first gas shipment going out today after the Prime Minister launched it and filled the gas up two days ago but the benefits are coming. Our question now as a country is, are we going to equally distribute the

benefits among our people? At the moment, we do not have a system in place that will actually help to equally distribute the amount of benefit to our people especially in the remote areas.

Mr Speaker, I have a problem when I see benefits accumulating in the urban centres which is very cheap in terms of building it but when you get outside, you don't see it translating into actual services because it is not just enough. We had a program, an AusAID support program sometime back when I was the Provincial Administrator called the BDP program. The Australian aid came about to assist schools with the delivery of some roofing material.

**14/08**

They did the planning work and thought it would be universal across the board so they thought they were going to distribute certain number of roofing irons to the remote schools. So they went ahead and selected a very remote school in Bak, a small village in Teleformin.

When they were in the process of delivering those roofing iron costing K4000, they found out that they had to spend K20 000 to charter a plane to carry the roofing iron worth merely K4000 to Bak Community School in Oksapmin, Teleformin District.

So this is the kind of reflection or the real story we have in this country. We need to now, as the benefits are coming through from the gas that we are exporting, have a system in which we should equally distribute by the actual cost of service delivery.

I think this is an issue that we are covering up because of politics. We also have money parked into ministries and some of this money parked in the National Government is at the discretion of the ministers. So when ministers go out on trips, they donate or give money to certain districts while the others which actually require those services are still waiting there.

So can we be equal as the *Constitution* is already clear, we read it, we preach it, but the actual action of it is not happening. I have said this many times. This is the Ninth Parliament, spiritually it means the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit so that means that we must now bear fruit. Those fruits must be starting to come out so that our people can eat the fruits. At the moment, we are not seeing the fruits because some are getting more while others are getting very little.

There is no other time, this is the appropriate time, this is the Parliament that will make this total change to see that we distribute down to the people and to where the people are.

Mr Speaker, the other matter is wish to raise which the Planning Minister answered during time for questions but not completely is that we must have a document to dictated and every one should follow.

At the moment, we do not have a plan that is linked to the budget. We do not know what document is actually dictating the budget. We have the plans heaping or piling up, we have the district plans, LLG plans, some are doing their ward plans, provincial plans, national plans, sectoral plans and when you put them together, you have a thousand plans but the budget is going the other way around. So the plans are going this way and the budget is going that way.

They have no meeting point, where do they meet? So I think for us as a district, the way forward for us is to see that we agree and NEC must approve that the district development funds that would be going down to the district. Even the donor's money that is coming must only fund the district development plans. It should not fund any other plans,

We should make it mandatory under Cabinet approval to the effect that National Government funding, donor funding or any other development funding should only fund the respective 89 district development plans. I think that should be the way for us to go.

At the same time at the national level, we do not know what document this plan will fund. Is it the MTDP or Vision 2050 which we know is just a vision but we must be very specific. So when we do a submission for donors we must quote the programme number, the project number, page number and we specifically put in the submission so that we can get the money.

Right now it is all over the place so any time the Minister visits any place he can just take it out and say I am committing it now. But the question is, even if you are committing it, where is the money? Is it parked in the budget?

So, Mr Speaker, I think it is an issue for us as responsible leaders at this time and at this very important moment. As I have said many times, I am privileged to be here at the right time. This is the right time for all of us so we must make things happen to change the way we do government business so that we can equally distribute the wealth to our people. At the moment it is still not as equal as we think because as I have said, the cost of service delivery to many remote districts is unequal.

So, I want to put it to all of us, Mr Speaker, that if you Ministers go and make commitments, I think –

15/08

Mr Speaker, when the Ministers go out and make commitments to the less developed districts, we have to assist them to development to the level that we expect. But, if we are still funding the same places which are already developed and easily accessible, we will not see the equal benefits shared between our people.

Mr Speaker, that is my contribution and I think we have a long way to go but we can start now.

**Mr WILLIAM POWI** (Governor-Southern Highlands) – In relation to what my colleague is contributing in relation to development in this country. We need to appreciate this government because the level of intervention programmes this Government is initiating in the districts and provinces is unprecedented.

We need to commend this Government because DSIP and PSIP are government policy funds that are created but any other government can come in and scrape it. For those of you who are here before my time, will realize that discretionary funds and non-discretionary funds for Members of Parliament range from as low as K500 000 at some stage.

This Government need to be commended for the level of intervention programmes it is sphere-heading in this country and that is the way to go.

The level of preparedness at the districts and changes in the provinces are felt by our people. The Government's intervention programmes in education and the health sector, the SME sector, the agriculture sector, the LLG wards and to the village court officials. So, Papua New Guineans need to embrace this level of government intervention. This Government is doing the right thing by going directly to who our people are.

Where are our people, they are in the districts, the wards and in the provinces. You intervene through the government intervention programmes like what the government is doing now that will lead to transforming the people of this nation.

Imagine if we had done this 40 years ago, we would have show-cased a different scenario in the development of this country. This intervention programmes of the government has the potential to transform our country and needs to be embraced properly by our leaders as well as by every citizen.

I think the Government is on the right track and we will continue to intervene more. We can provide we can provide post office and other basic services so that life can become convenient at the districts and the wards.

I congratulate the Government for taking the right direction and my districts are feeling the changes of this Government intervention and there are a lot of our ordinary people who are unable to speak. You can correct me but I am feeling the pinch of this Government intervention programs in this country.

We need to commend our government to take partnership approach with the Districts and the Provinces and deliver to our people these transformational programmes that the Government is embarking. We will set the benchmark for the future development.

I also want to take note of what my colleague, Member for Nuku, Joseph Sungi had said: "We will appreciate what our government's programmes to intervene in some of these critical areas in our local-level areas where our people live.

This is something new and transformational period for our country and we need to take advantage of this and showcase over the years to come.

16/08

**Mr PETER ISOAIMO** (Kairiku-Hiri) – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to express disappointments of my people of Kairiku-Hiri.

Mr Speaker, we know that the country is facing lot of problems and Kairiku-Hiri is a big electorate, which also is facing lot of problems. Firstly, I was trying to ask this during Question Time but the Minister was not available, so I wish to talk about it in the Grievances Debate.

In August 2013, the Department of Petroleum and Energy established a Committee called 'the Clan Vetting Project. Its role is to negotiate and make a social mapping to identify the real landowners of the land that the project will be located, especially in terms of royalty payments in the Hiri-West of the Central Province or the Kairiku-Hiri District.

Mr Speaker, the benefits that were supposed to be dished to the people is too slow, yet, some have already been given out to the people, while others are yet to be given out. We know that the Infrastructure Development grant is given to the Provincial Government, while the Business Development grant is for the landowner company, some landowner companies

got my electorate and many others are still waiting for their benefits. In addition, some other grants for poor impacted villages like Porebada, Boera, Papa and Lealea.

In regard to royalty, it is due when the ship leaves the shore but equity we have agreed to pay the landowners' companies at the rate of 4.22 per cent. On this, I wish to thank the Governor of Central for taking lead to secure funding to pay the shares of our people.

Mr Speaker, we have been waiting for the Clan Vetting Project of the Department of Petroleum and Energy to convene a forum to discuss and address these issues, but since then there wasn't any forum as I was told during my electoral visit to Hiri-West area.

I want to raise my people's concerns whether the Government and the line Departments involved can consider this issue and address it, so that, we can have the smooth follow of development as expected by the Government and the people; because in the resources development, if a person or a clan is not satisfied, the development of the project will be jeopardised. As responsible leaders and Members of this Government, we must do our best to address problems and resolve them for our people.

My second point is regarding a political blunder that occurred on Wednesday. After I left my seat in the Chamber I called the LNG Plant type to find out whether the local Member of Parliament was invited for the program for Wednesday.

Mr Speaker, a security officer or the organising committee asked my staff who the Member for Kairiku-Hiri's host was in the LNG Plant type. This is not good enough! I am the local Member! Why I was never informed and never invited for that matter? When my staff rang to enquire; they said, who is your host.

I think, as a Government, common courtesy must prevail to recognise the local Member of Parliament. We hope this does not happen again in the near future. I have two letters from my people expressing their disappointment and frustration over these issues but how can we address them when the Minister responsible is not available? If we continue like this, we are painting a bad image to the public that we can grab your land and do so as we please, we do not care about you.

**17/08**

That is the kind of message we are sending to our people. If the Minister, was available I would have asked him to organise a program for at least the four villages to stage some customary celebrations for the first ship to leave their shores with the gas.

We are stakeholders to LNG and there are landowner as well the other issues especially the distribution of almost K100 million. I believe 40 per cent has already been distributed and the remaining 60 per cent is still there. The Minister must act quickly and find out who has not received their share must be fairly paid what is owed to them.

The forum is overdue, so when the Minister is back, can he look into this and let us solve this matter quickly, this is for the Hiri District. For the Kairuku district, the NCD Governor and I had a good discussion in the last couple of days on the issue of buai, which is still a problem for my constituent voters.

While there, are political, administrative and legal processes to impose the ban as he is running a municipal government, are we legally in his boundary for the ban to be imposed?

My people are now using the sea transport because they cannot come through the Laloki checkpoint. Over the last two months, after I raised this issue during my maiden speech, these people are travelling to Hisiu, Toutu and Manumanu. From there they travel by dinghy to villages along the Hiri West as far as Porebada, Roku and Lealea.

Others are travelling to Tubusereia, Barakau and Gaire. In those two months, there have been some incidents of dinghies overloading and capsized. Last week Wednesday saw the first incidence of piracy associated with the transporting of buai on the seas and this incident has seen one life and several personal belongings lost and passengers left traumatised.

I want to inform the Parliament that I have been trying to ask the Ministers for Works and Transport, if they have some plans, or can they pity us to construct a road to connect the people of Kairuku from the western end or the eastern end from Bautama, to make it easier for our people to transport their buai.

Can there be some kind of pass made available for people, especially the PMVs from Kairuku Hiri and Gulf to be able to pass with their goods straight to Hiri West or East and sell betelnut. I feel I should raise this issue today because as we speak, so many people are coming to my house at Gordons to get busfare from the Member because their buai have been thrown out at the check points. It is a very big issue for me and I will still sit with the Governor to discuss some alternatives.

**18/08**

I will still meet with the Governor during this meeting of Parliament and come up with solutions to this issue because I have a huge problem on my hands right now. I have to pay bus fares every fortnight for my constituents. It does not affect other Members who live

outside of Port Moresby so it's alright for them but for Members of National Capital District and Central, it is very difficult task for us.

I thank the honourable Speaker for allowing me during this Grievance Debate to express my grievances.

**Mr WERA MORI** (Chuave) – Thank you Mr Speaker, once again, before I air my grievances, as an infant politician on this floor of this Parliament, I must learn to crawl before I walk. Having said that, I would like to place on record and commend our Prime Minister because over the last few sittings, he happens to be one of those senior politicians who sits right through to the end of Grievance Debate on Fridays. I would like to commend the example that he has set.

Mr Speaker, I have grievances to air and I say this with a degree of pain because we have exploited our natural resources, our gold and copper, and now we are exporting oil and only this week we have floated a ship with Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).

While this is happening and a lot of money is coming into this country and yet our people continue to suffer. You know, you and I, we go to the same Supermarket with the person who lives in the settlement and we, buy a tin of fish at K8 or K10, whatever the price is, we do not pay different prices to those from the settlement and more so, to those from the villages.

Mr Speaker, is there any way for this to be addressed? Why are we allowing prices to skyrocket when we are exporting oil and gas, gold and copper and whatever resources that goes out of this country? We must intervene and it is about time the Government must look seriously at removing GST that is imposed throughout the country. We must give relief to our people. There is no way you and I in this honourable Parliament as the peoples' representatives give money to every citizen from our respective constituents to live on a daily basis.

Whatever little money they have, it must have the buying power. Whatever little money they have, they must be able to stretch it to the very limit. It is alright for those of you who represent electorates from resource rich provinces but you must feel sorry for me as I come from one of the electorates in Chimbu where we do not have the natural resources and that whatever little money we have we must spread it to the limit.

And therefore, Mr Speaker, I think it is about time this Government must think seriously about removing all GST. It has got to be removed. Having said, when I woke up

this morning I saw in the front page of the *Post Courier*, it stated that we have a jackpot of K800 million. And this is very good and I know and I am thankful to my brother, the Member for Komo-Margarima who agrees with me.

**19/08**

Will that K800 million be parked in our books so that it will form part of the 2014 Budget?

Or, is it a statistical figure –

**Mr Patrick Pruaitch** – Point of Order! The Minister has clearly stated that the percentage that we recently acquired and its new value is K800 million. He did not say that that was the amount that we were going to receive.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr SPEAKER** – Honourable Member, the Minister's Point of Order is very clear. We have to be careful so that we do not mislead the Parliament and the nation. The K800 million is the value of the shares that we own.

**Mr WERA MORI** – Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I was alluding to that and I know that this is basically the market difference between what its price is today and the price it was bought at because I have a background in that industry, do not forget that.

With that, I would like to thank the Treasurer for putting me on track. Nevertheless, many a times, not only regarding what I have raised here but on other matters as well, sometimes we are not careful and we make issues over sensitive. That in itself may be very damaging for both our international partners and those operating within the country.

I, in particular, would like to stand up for companies and be able to give credit to those who have been operating in Papua New Guinea since Independence, and even some prior to Independence. Many of these companies provide employment and the people that they employ also have a multiplying effect because they also support four or five times the number of an immediate nucleus family.

Therefore, I would like to appeal to the Government, if we are giving contracts then we must also support PNG based companies. I was a critic of some of them, namely Hebou and Dekenai, but as a leader and to be responsible, I realised that they had taken far more responsibilities. They have looked after far more people than I could, and so, through you, Mr Speaker, I would like to appeal to the Government, that, instead of giving a lot of contracts to companies that are based offshore and come in to the country basically for the purposes of contracts, we must not forget our own homegrown companies like Shorncliff, Dekenai and Hebou. They have been here and have been supporting Papua New Guinea through thick and thin. We have to take note of that and we must be able to support them so that they can continue to do the things that you and I cannot do so.

Mr Speaker, since I only have three more minutes to speak, I would like to say this. When we sometimes gaged over sensitive like the Report that the Governor of Madang asked about from the Minister for Environment and Conservation. Regarding such matters such reports must be published and circulated in the public domain and tested. We also have to know their sources as well because when we talk about these subterranean canyons deep in the sea. I find it quite hard to believe that the same minerals mine at Ramu, which are embedded in rocks of high density will defy gravity and float up to the sea surface. Therefore, such reports must be tested and scrutinised in the public domain.

Now, that my time is only two minutes, I must commend the honourable Loujaya Toni

*Ms Loujaya Kouza interjecting!*

**Mr WERA MORI** – I apologise for calling the wrong name.

I commend the Minister for her good report that she tabled in Parliament and I believe that she has set the standard. Therefore, we expect the rest of the Government Ministers to also have their updated reports presented to Parliament in a timely manner also. This is important for good planning.

**20/08**

The proposal to create an Office for Religion should not be considered. Why not just amend the *Constitution* and declare that Papua New Guinea is a Christian country because we

all believe in the same God and ban other religions. If we want to create an office, we should call it Christian Office rather than Religion because it is not logical.

**Mr SAM BASIL** (Bulolo – Deputy Leader of the Opposition) – Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to debate.

Mr Speaker, during this Meeting of Parliament, honourable Governor for Manus had raised some concerns on the VSAT system in the country. As one of the beneficiaries of the VSAT system, I want to support the Minister for IPBC and the Minister for Communication by making clarifications on our experience.

Mr Speaker, the VSAT system is a very good system and the Government must promote and look after it. We have rolled out this system in the remote areas that Digicel and Telikom do not have network coverage.

I want the Minister for Communication to take note of this because sometimes before and after the National Elections and new Members take office, we see that they do not carry on the work that has been initiated by the previous Member to provide this essential service to the remote areas. Therefore, when new Members take office, Telikom and the Minister responsible must always be prepared to brief them on this vital service and on what sites they are installed as well as their outstanding bills so that they can continue to maintain and provide this service. If the new Members are not briefed accordingly and they find it out themselves and at the same time there may be some political interference because the VSAT system was installed by the former Member, new Members may feel reluctant to continue this service and the people may suffer.

Mr Speaker, in my electorate, I have 22 VSAT sites and this year, I am going to increase it to six, I will install one at the border with Sohe Electorate and another bordering Kerema Electorate as well as for the people living on the coastal and the other one towards Lae.

The concern raised by the Governor of Manus has touched me and I am worried because if the Government and its line agencies do not respond effectively and the Members disregard this service, there are no other ways of getting another better service because the customers of VSAT are the Members of Parliament. It has done wonders.

After hearing the concerns raised by the Governor of Manus in relation to cost, I went through records and checked my invoices and statements found out that Telikom charge us K34 400 to initially purchase on VSAT kit and out of this, K20 000 is the purchase price

where it becomes the property of the district. If you want other accessories like solar and batteries, another K33 500 is charged and it adds up to almost K60 000 which, is a one-off payment. The usage charges are K1 200 per month so in 12 months, Telikom will bill you K14 400 which is reasonable.

Mr Speaker, providing this service to the rural people will save the lives of our people and link-up communication to the outside world. This service is very beneficial to my electorate. On the concerns on cost raised by the Governor of Manus, I think it was the accumulation of bills over five or six years as a result of non-payment of bills to hundreds of thousands of kina.

We have other priorities but this is high cost will make us reluctant to fund it but I want to assure the Members of Parliament that we have to be partners with Telikom. When we establish VSAT system in the rural areas, we make sure that it is installed next to a trade store if there are not government stations near so that the trade store will take ownership of that equipment.

Mr Speaker, what we have done is that, I can identify four good uses of VSAT in the rural areas. First is the telephone lines which, we can install easily because we have tested it and it worked.

**21/08**

Telikom has never done this but we've tested it and it worked. You can run land lines on poles from that site to at least three to four kilometres away from the installation site.

So people living in one village can run 10 bare cables or five bare aerial cables, villagers can log and use kwila for posts, you don't need metal posts, and if you send it to another village, it can be anchored at the trade store or some place central where villagers can have access to it.

Mr Speaker, for maintenance, a local can be trained by Telikom to cater for basic maintenance because corrosion on the battery terminals are constantly happening, sometimes lightning strikes can destroy the machine if it is not earthed properly. But basic maintenance only takes care of corrosion, wind in the battery and that needs only a spanner to tighten it.

This programme was rolled out and made in partnership with the villagers and it was actually good.

The other one is internet access. If you have a Government Station close to you, you can use internet access by arranging with Telikom to allow internet access to that particular area.

Now if there is a constant power supply, you can put in a wireless router that can give you access through your mobile phone or other lap top devices.

Mr Speaker, recently, we know that the same system can receive *EMTV* so if that said trade store is close to a V-SAT you can run *EMTV* to the store and there are screens sold in Lae which are compatible with DC current which is 12 volts and you don't need to convert it with an inverter to bring it to AC current of 240 volts.

Mr Speaker, another benefit of V-Sat system apart from landline, internet and *EMTV* is EFTPOS. When Digicel roll out BSP forego landline and went wireless but when we ask BSP to come to our villages and connect with us using the old system it worked.

So what we are doing now is that we brought the EFTPOS machines to the trade stores allowing us to retain the public servants and primary school teachers. They don't need to go into towns to swipe and cash their money now. They simply go to the trade store where the owner charges them K10 for every K100 or they can just purchase goods at the trade store so that keeps them in the villages.

Mr Speaker, I call upon the Ministers in charge of systems such as the V-Sat system to make awareness through to our Members of Parliament and continue this service.

Mr Speaker, I have a little more time in which I wish to talk about CDMA. CDMA is a very good wireless system which can be installed in our villages and it has the ability to perform the same tasks as bemoobile and Digicel.

CDMA is available at Telikom and individual Members can see them about your specific needs. Though its costs is a bit higher but at least, it works by solar and can come with power pack if your station is at a high altitude you can transmit from there.

This CDMA system is good for you to take to the rural areas. So, honourable Minister for Communications, please promote this because it is going to save the lives of people in rural areas. If someone is sick they can ring and helicopters can go in and do Medivac.

Mr Speaker, I wish to speak on this because when I heard the Member of Manus speaking the other day, I felt offended because this system is helping my people so all the Members of Parliament must employ it.

**Ms LOUJAYA KOUZA** (Lae – Minister for Community Development) – Mr Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to clarify some issues with regard to the biometric rollout which I am carrying out in my district and especially with the level of difficulty, I am having with what's coming out, the level of misinformation from street preachers, misinformation on the social media and so I wish to use this opportunity to clarify a few things.

**22/08**

Mr Speaker, the idea of piloting biometrics in Lae was not an issue that I just thought up when Huawei made it's arrangement with the government.

Since graduating from Unitech and as an election platform, I believe that in order to develop and empower my people as indigenous landowners, I must run on biometrics to capture the population in Lae District for the purpose of empowering our people that are there to determine who is an alien, who is in his third or fourth generation and who is indigenous and then aligning it with the MDG requirements and review the core intentions.

Apart from securing the population number, I wanted to be able to remove a quota of our youth in Lae District and put them through an aptitude test where we can determine their strengths in the area of agriculture, national security, SME, National Volunteer Service, music and arts toward a national identity through music and arts in terms of our dressing and technical skills training. Also, I was thinking of looking at the needs of sheltered workshops for the disabled to determine out of our population what quota has a need for this.

And so began a journey and that investigation of how we can do it locally rather than insult the intelligence of our local people who are skilled in that level of IT and I was able to find a team that would be able to process my vision as it were.

Now, in justifying that K5 million which I committed, first K2 million and then recently another K30 million to ensure that by the end of this year, the capturing of the 23 ward areas, including those in the Nawae boundary and Huon Gulf where those two electorates were not given any consideration, I want to be a mother to them. I went there with the money belonging to Lae District went to take care of those people.

In my campaign, I walked all those areas and told them that I don't care that you are going to vote in Nawae or Huon Gulf, I am here to show my face. I will be a mother to you. Whatever money belonging to Lae District will be channeled into looking after you and when

the Boundaries Commission disputes that, I will invoice their Members to reimburse Lae Open money.

With that understanding, I went inside and what is now happening is that I will bring in a report of the K5 million to show how it was broken up. It may be a little bit more than K5 million by the time we reach the end of the year when all the figures and statistics are summarized.

But, it's a pilot project. It is in no way taking the stick for what is happening on a big scale but I believe that if we pilot it this way we are able to see the possibilities and create a template for how we can assist where the other Members for the 88 districts can see on a small scale quickly what we can do to capture education sector, health sector, and so on.

I am determined; I will continue to help out of my DSIP. I am thankful to the Governor of Morobe for assisting me with logistics to carry around the two tons of equipment where partnership of the local company and their US based CogentryM Logistics where the Governor assisted in housing that to tons of equipment.

What is happening this week is that the 23 ward councilors will come in for training where they will capture their particulars, and following them will be another three selected from the ward areas with knowledge on ICT.

**23/08**

They will be undergoing training. Altogether there is a team of 23 ward councilors plus a total of 30 support staff. There are 12 terminals so they will be serving 12 people at a time. This will commence in 2-mile.

Mr Speaker, to be able to have this opportunity, and to see how it can go and how long it will take, the information is going to be taken out into each of the ward areas by the ward councillors and the support team. But sadly enough, misinformation from the street preacher said that the Member for Lae is bringing in 666. Do I look like 666? Why would I submit myself to 666 and send all our people there. This is ridiculous. This doctrine is not taken from the Holy Bible instead it is from the fear within the street preacher.

Mr Speaker, I want to brief the main line churches and our church partners including the Ministers. We can include them in the bio-matrix roll-out and we can use them also in the national approach. They are the ones to advise their people accordingly.

So I am sharing my experience in Lae and I am committed to see it right through and by the time the Bill is out, I can justify that we've got the result and we can plan for 2017.

**Mr ALLAN MARAT** (Kokopo) – I have three petty grievances to talk about.

The first is in relation to the administration of Parliament especially the timing aspect of the questions. As you clearly expressed, we would like to ask as many questions as possible during Question Time.

In the recent trip that I was fortunate enough to take to the Australian Federal Parliament, I observed that the Speaker was always keeping very strict timing of the questions asked. There is a set time for questions to be asked, for the responses and even the supplementary questions as well.

Mr Speaker, this morning, we are all raising points of order left right and centre on this issue of timing. But I am not really sure, what the Standing Orders provide on timing during Question Time.

But I would really appreciate if this issue could be looked into so members of Parliament are made aware of the timing. If the Standing Orders do not provide anything about timing on questions, answers and supplementary questions, could we amend the standing orders accordingly?

Secondly, Papua New Guinea's population is increasing. At some stage one honourable Member made a mention that it may not be 7 million people but more.

**24/08**

So, Mr Speaker, with increased population, there is an increase demand for goods and services and this gives an indication to us that we are probably at the state where we need an Upper House in Papua New Guinea in our Parliament.

At the moment, the *Constitution* provides in Section 101 Sub-section 1 that this Parliament is a single Chamber Legislature or shall be Single Chamber Legislature, meaning that we have the Government and the Opposition. We do not have an Upper House.

Mr Speaker, I believe that with this increasing population, there is also an increase in demand for good quality national governance. I believe, if we have an Upper House, the issues that are not properly debated at the Lower House, can then be properly and

intellectually analysed and debated in the Upper House, and given the good national quality governance that we aspire to manage and run this country.

I'd really love to see that this country have an Upper House and because the Government is listening and the Constitutional and Law Reform Commission, especially the Attorney-General is listening, maybe if this could be progressed, I do not know the wisdom of progressing it quickly, but, I think some steps have got to be taken up to realise this issue or this particular wish of many of us that we have an Upper House in Papua New Guinea.

Mr Speaker, my third point is in relation to the issue raised by the Member for Nuku on the fair and equal distribution of wealth and resources of this nation. I think the *Constitution* is very clear and Section 25 prohibits discrimination in the distribution of this nation's wealth and resources.

The National Goal No: 2 and Directive Principals No: 3 and 4 are very clear that this nation's wealth and resources whether it be through the Government's intervention programs or the Budget, or whatever income that comes into National Government's coffers have got to be distributed fairly according to approved formulas by NESC to all 89 districts. Again, I expressed it with some concern and I hope that we keep politics in Parliament and when it comes to delivery and distribution of wealth and resources of this nation, there will be total fairness and the Constitutional Directives will be strictly adhere to.

**Sir MICHAEL SOMARE** (East Sepik) – Mr Speaker, I am an old person and if things are not in the right way and I behave differently, I wish to say sorry and apologise to the Chair for my behaviour.

Mr Speaker, I was going to raise some questions concerning airports to the Minister for Civil Aviation during the Question Time, since I did not have the opportunity, I will now raise them in my grievances to the Prime Minister.

Mr Prime Minister, there are seven major airports in Papua New Guinea and they are in Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul, Mt Hagen, Alotau, Vanimo and Wewak

**25/08**

He has already removed the Wewak Airport controller and we are now seen as a third level airport.

We were once recognised as an international airport, we had routes connecting to Jayapura, Bali and Singapore. Our airport is a very big airport and CAA is paid tax from the airlines such as Qantas and Singapore when they use it. We never get the tax because they control the air services. Wewak airport is an international airport because we have a link to South East Asia. And we have good position under the CAA because when you are in the air from Wewak, you can go to Brisbane, Manila and Singapore.

Why has the Minister and his advisors overlooked this importance and given us the status of third level airport? It is true that we do not host the bigger aircrafts but you can use the Wewak airport to accommodate 500-600 passenger aircraft to Bali, Jayapura, Jakarta. The National Government is downgrading us. The Prime Minister has to do it properly because under the Provincial Government, we have the power to operate our own airlines. Please think thoroughly before you can downgrade our airport to a third level airport.

Thank you Mr Speaker and once again, I apologise for this morning, I wanted to ask this question and the Minister was not available but now I have had the opportunity to raise it.

**Mr FRANCIS POTAPE** (Komo-Margarima) – On behalf of my people of Komo-Margarima, Kikori, Central and Gulf and all the landowners, I thank the previous Government, the current one and the ExxonMobil-led team, including Oil Search and others in making the Liquefied Natural Gas a reality.

What good is the gas, oil or gold if it is underground? We, in this project believed there is a game changer. PNG is turning a new corner, the future generation will no longer be the same. I want my brothers from Central Province to know that my people have accused us of taking the gas to this side of the country.

They asked why we were taking it all the way to Central Province? We said it was the National Government's decision. When the Government makes the decision in Waigani, everybody tows the line, and that is what we did.

Mr Speaker, I want to thank the former Ministers, like Mr Arthur Somare and others in the previous and current Government who really stood together for the project. I was one of those who had been accused by my landowners for bulldozing some of the agreements.

**26/08**

Let's promote the big picture. We promoted the big picture there and then.

Mr Speaker, today I am a very relieved man. When you have big projects like this going in your province or district, you can't sleep properly. You do not want anything to happen in your district.

Mr Speaker, I want to put it on record that no foreigners who worked on the Komo Airport or in the PNG LNG Project were being attacked by the landowners. That is a record. The world will now know that Papua New Guinea can host big projects like the PNG LNG Project. We can also host big companies like ExxonMobil and Oil Search and many of those contractors who came and now they have gone back to their countries with many good memories.

I was privileged to visit many countries like Japan, China and even New York when Arthur Somare was the Minister. At the financial closure in New York, the ExxonMobil Vice President said this LNG Project in Papua New Guinea is unique. It is different from any other LNG projects around the world. Why? Because it is an LNG Project in a paradise, many other LNG projects are in a desert and some in rough stony places but this one is unique and in a paradise setting. Papua New Guinea should be proud that we have joined the exclusive club of LNG-producing nations around the world.

The current event that took place at Napanapa was at the invitation of the ExxonMobil team and I think we were only invited to join the party and we went down. So if there was a bit of blunder on the side of the Member for Kairuku Hiri, I think it was not intentional on the part of the company. Maybe a misunderstanding but otherwise, it was for all of us to see the big picture of the project.

Mr Speaker, I want to also ExxonMobil and the LNG Project for naming two ships of the four ships. Two ships will be bearing the name of the Hela people, the Spirit of Hela and the Kikila Light Hebou? Where the mountain that hosts the gas itself. My mountains will no longer be the same. My people also no longer be the same. In the quarry where the disaster happened, more than 17 people lost their lives and today, we have never recovered any bodies. I was the first man on the ground and the Prime Minister also came.

Prime Minister, today, I want to thank you and the Minister for Works who also came. We have not found any of the bodies but we said the project must still happen. This is for the country, let us promote the country first and that is what we did. And I think on the Floor of this Parliament, we need to promote the country. We really need to promote the country.

I am very grateful that those two ships when they cross many international waters will carry the Papua New Guinea names. And I am very happy for that one. What I want to

also say here is that we have learnt many lessons in relation to this PNG LNG Project and of these two trains. The third train will come and many other trains will come.

The relevant government departments will now need to document the lessons that we have learnt. We really need to document the lessons that we have learnt so that when we are about to go into the third or fourth train, we have to know what to do. We have learnt many lessons and for many landowners, the LNG is a very big thing, and even for the country. It is the first time for us to host this project and to experience what we have experienced. I think some opportunities have been lost, some gains have been made but the bottom line is we have learnt lessons and we should now document them.

One message I want to share here is that the major issue left now is the identification of landowners. When the Grand Chief was in hospital, I was promoted to take over from Duma, that the time left was six weeks only. And if I had continued, I would have done a good job but politics came so all I want to say is, with the identification of landowners, if the current Department of Petroleum and Energy cannot do it, give it to the districts and we will do it. We will identify the landowners in one month in a transparent way. There will be no hide and seek games. At the moment, the way they are doing it is wrong and is not right. They are giving forms to any individuals in Mendi, in Mt Hagen and in Port Moresby and they fill it up. This is wrong!

**27/08**

We then identify it and read the names to the people and ask them if they agree as to their clan names are correct. We then take it back and sign the ministerial determination and that is the only thing that needs to be done.

Mr Speaker, I am very grateful that the project has been completed. Many a times Exxon/ Mobil and others would ring me to go and talk with the Komaiopot landowners, the pipeline people and to these and that. Regarding some promises we made but as a government, all I would like to say is that, as a leader from the Highlands region I want all highlanders to be also proud that we are hosting this big project.

We ferry the big LNG trucks from Lae to the Highlands and the Highlands Highway has become damaged to a certain extent because of those big trucks. I am also glad that the Prime Minister is present to hear this. Nevertheless, workmen and their machineries have moved out of the highway and no foreigners have been attacked. The project has now come

to a conclusion with the first gas being shipped overseas and I am totally of the view that we have delivered and that the country should stand proud. All Members of Parliament and it does not matter where you sit on this Floor of Parliament should also be proud.

We should know that our future is going to be different and we should support each other and give credit where it is due.

**Mr POWES PARKOP (NCD)** – Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the chance to speak. I have only two points that I would like to raise. The first one is in regards to the *Haus Krai* Initiative and the complaints raised against it, and the other concerns the clogging of our Court system.

Mr Speaker, I have two points that I would like to raise. Firstly, regarding what the Member for Rabaul had said. We must have a system to monitor the attendance of Members of Parliament, especially during Parliament sitting days. Some of us try our best to always attend Parliament when it is in session. We must take note of this and reward those who make an effort to always attend Parliament sessions like the Prime Minister and Honourable Sir Puka Temu.

I too, try to attend as much as possible but am sure and that applies to most of you. Parliament is the highest representation of our people and this is our People's House.

Mr Speaker, you should think about this. I will be writing a letter to your Committee with a few of my suggestions to help manage Parliament, maintain decorum and its dignity.

My second point is in regard to what Member for Bulolo has said the power problems faced especially, in the cities are not acceptable anymore and it is a disgrace. Our Prime Minister knows this and may be the decision that he made to buy the two could be right or wrong at the same time because we put a lot of pressure on him. Therefore, I would like to apologise to him. Nevertheless, with these kinds of pressure he may have done a short-cut decision but, I believe the Minister responsible will explain in the next Parliament sitting.

Mr Speaker, I think that, the writing on the wall is that, we must relook at PNG Power Limited. This organisation has failed all of us up to this day. We must bite the bullet and decide what will happen to PNG Power. If we are going to privatize it then do it or strip it and sell the assets to the provincial governments.

Mr Speaker, we should be open to that kind of outcome because PNG Power as a national entity cannot provide power sufficiently and adequately to all the provinces,

residences, industries and the people who need it. Minister for Public Enterprise and the IPBC must start to consider that as an option.

**28/08**

We should consider an option where the provincial government should take over the assets and operate as a private or public-private partnership. Some provinces may not be profitable so it cannot be successful but provinces should take ownership of it. I want to raise idea at this point in time but we should be open-minded about it.

The main point is that may be the Prime Minister was under a lot of pressure and he may have bypassed some of the decision making process and I hope there were no shortcuts but these are the kind of pressures that you face.

As Port Moresby city is going to host the 2015 South Pacific games and later in 2018 with the APEC Meeting, all the world leaders will be here and it will be shameful if we face constant blackouts. That is why I sent a very stern text message to the Prime Minister but at least he is making the decision in one way or the other, whether it is right or wrong. We will fix it later if it is wrong.

Mr Speaker, another issue that I want to comment on is our Court system. I wanted to ask the Attorney-General on this issue but I didn't have the opportunity so I want to raise it now.

Our Court system now is clogged and is not functioning because it is not delivering the justice on time to our people and it is also very costly where many of us are partly contributing to this problem. When we have small misunderstanding in politics, which, could be solved politically, we quickly rush to Court. We are rushing everything to Court and I think we are holding the title in the Guinness Book of Record for the number of election petitions. I do not think any country in the world has won us in the election petition cases from the LLGs up to the National level.

If you check the records of the English Parliament which is the first Parliament in the world, there are not many election petitions but in Papua New Guinea, we hold the record. We must find some ways and Attorney-General must find ways of resolving this issue but I think the Government is going in the right direction by fixing-up the electoral system through Bio-metric data system which, may cut down on the election petition related problems.

However, the point I am trying to say is that we must try and keep the political disputes within the political arena and try to solve it instead of rushing to Court all the time.

Another problem that the Attorney-General should look into is the administrative system. In the past, we used to have a tribunal system like in CIS, Defence Force or within the general Public Service but now, they have all been abolished. So what happens, if everybody rushes to Court? If someone is suspended or terminated, they all rush to Court.

Mr Speaker, other countries in the region like Philippines, Malaysia or even in Vanuatu, if there is a change in the government and they wanted to change the departmental heads, it is final because the government of the day would want to align themselves to implement their policies. But in Papua New Guinea, I don't know if we follow Australia or England's government system where the secretaries or departmental heads want to be there forever while we as politicians are here today and gone tomorrow. They try to outlive us so when we try to suspend or terminate them, they are rushing to Court. May be they have a right to go to Court but, I think the Attorney-General, judges and their Secretary, the Minister for Public Service should find some ways of resolving these issues so that it does not go to Court.

Mr Speaker, if it is an administrative matter then there must be an administrative mechanism within itself or a Court in the bureaucracy to resolve it, and it has to go to the appeal process and, may be the NEC should be the final arbitral. Change the law so that NEC can decide and it should be final. If we have to amend the *Constitution* so the people don't have the right to appeal the decision, then let's do it because in other countries, once the Executive Government makes a decision to change you, that is it. But in Papua New Guinea, everybody challenges the decision and you cannot get anything done.

**Sir Puka Temu** – Point of Order! Mr Speaker, we have amended the law but we will certify to it and administer the law on whatever the Governor is referring to.

**29/08**

**Mr POWES PARKOP** (National Capital District) – I thank the Minister for his point. It was timely that I raised it during the Grievance Debate so that I will know if the Minister is doing something about it.

Mr Speaker, our people see the Courts as a venue to go and gamble. Regardless of how small the nature the issue is they are still fronting up in the Courts. I think the Attorney General and the Judges must address this issue and stop the cases that have no substance in them.

The Court has the power to make Summary Determination instead the judge is allowing the hearing to continue but, this is running up the bills. When they review a case at the Supreme Court level I suggest the Court must pay security for the costs incurred.

There are people who do not have the chances of winning a case but because politics is involved they win.

**Mr CHARLES ABEL** (Alotau – Minister for National Planning) – I owe an apology to others who have been standing up. Well done with the grievance debate today. It is fantastic and good to see that all the chairs empty are here are those of the Ministers. They have to be here to listen to our backbenchers and what they have to say.

Mr Speaker, I want to express my disappointment regarding the newspaper and their reporting. In particular the response I gave on Wednesday when Honourable Tobias Kulang asked me about National Statistics and the NSO inclusive of what our government is doing about updating statistics.

I want to express my disappointment and I seek an apology from the National Newspaper today. The very brief article comprising of the first two words that I said in terms of acknowledging the deficiency and the production of our statistic but nothing whatsoever in relation to the detailed Government's response I gave.

I want to say that, please exercise some professionalism. Can the media put some qualified journalist to sit in that box up there so that they can accurately report what we are saying?

What is the point of asking a question and responding to it on the Floor of Parliament, and if you put into the public domain an answer that is one tenth of what I said? It is very disappointing because I presented and tabled a very important piece of legislation today in relation to the *Civil Registry Amendment Bill* and the National Identification Program. There is nothing whatsoever in both newspapers. So, I do not know what some of those reporters are doing up there sitting in those boxes with those headphone on. Maybe they are listening to music or something.

## MOTION BY LEAVE

**Mr CHARLES ABEL** (Alotau – Minister for National Planning) – I ask leave of Parliament to move a motion without notice.

Leave granted.

## PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON PLANS AND ESTIMATES – APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Motion (by **Mr Charles Abel**) – I move –

That Mr Francis Potape be appointed Chairman of the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Plans and Estimates.

## MOTION BY LEAVE

**Mr CHARLES ABEL** (Alotau – Minister for National Planning) – I ask leave of Parliament to move a motion without notice.

Leave granted.

## BIPARTISAN COMMITTEE ON BOUGAINVILLE MATTERS – ESTABLISHMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

Motion (by **Mr Charles Abel**) – I move –

- (1) That this Parliament establishes a Bipartisan Committee on Bougainville Matters, consisting of Mr William Powi Chairman, Mr Josephin Sungi Deputy Chairman, Mr Jim Kas, Mr Allan Marat and Mr Tobias Kulang.
- (2) The Committee shall oversee the overall implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement as stipulated in the National Constitution of Papua New Guinea.

- (3) The Committee shall report to the National Parliament bi-annually or as and when required, on updates of work in progress on the implementation of the peace agreement.
- (4) The Committee shall undertake visits to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and hold regular consultations with all stakeholders on matters concerning Bougainville and obtain information relevant for the purposes of updating the National Parliament.

### SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Motion (by **Mr Charles Abel**) agreed to –

That the Parliament at its rising adjourn to 24 June, 2014 at 2. p.m..

### ADJOURNMENT

Motion (by **Mr Charles Abel**) agreed to –

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 1 p.m..