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LEE SIROTE
Acting Principal Parliamentary Reporter

FOURTH DAY

Friday 13 February 2015

DRAFT HANSARD

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FOURTH DAY

Friday 13 February 2015

The Deputy Speaker (**Mr Aide Ganasi**) took the Chair at 10 a.m..

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

Sitting suspended.

The Deputy Speaker again took the Chair at 10.40 a.m., and invited the Member for Usino-Bundi, **Honourable Anton Yagama**, to say Prayers:

‘Papa God mipela tok tenkyu long yu givim mipla wan mo day long stap long dispela graun. Laip em stap long han bilong yu. Mi komitim olgeta honourable members long dispela haus long han bilong yu, las dei long dispela week taim mipela sindaun na diskasim ol samting long halivim ol pipol bilong yu.

Papa God mipela pray bai yu givim wanwan chair na ol toktok ikam aut wantaim gutpela bel bilong yu long kamapim kantri na sindaunim pipol bilong yu gut.

Papa God mipela bai inonap mekim wanpela samting long strong bilong mipela yet. But taim yu stap namel olgeta samting bai stap gud na kantri bai kamap gud. Mipela givim dispel luksave long yu long displa morning na mipela joinin mipela yet wantaim tokok em Jisas i skulim long en. Amen.’

QUESTIONS

Mr POWES PARKOP – Firstly, Mr Speaker, I take this opportunity to congratulate you for the election of the position you held before but by-election caused you to go out and now you deserve to be back in that position.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my question goes to the Minister for Community Development. Nowadays especially in the city there is a new phenomena. There are talks about disadvantaged children or the street children.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I do not understand why unlike other countries people of PNG have land, homes and villages and nobody should be displaced or be called street children yet *Post-Courier* is talking about it frequently. Whether it is true or not it is becoming a reality and we are forced to accept that it is real.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we all do not all come from an advantaged background. I come from a village far away. When you go to my village it is like the end of the world, but we have tried and we have come this far.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this is my concern because there is an increasing dialogue about the street or disadvantaged children. In Port Moresby churches are setting up orphanage and trying to deal with the so-called disadvantaged children.

My questions are:

(1) What is the Government's current position on orphanage?

Mr Deputy Speaker, I know that the Government's position is to support the families to look after the children and not put them into institution.

(2) Are we going to support the orphanage?

02/04

The questions which I want to pose are, are we going to support that orphanage? Is there a law governing orphanages? Are there any rules in place to regulate institutions of this sort?

Some are genuine, I am not saying that they are not genuine. Some are church based, like City Mission, but are there rules to regulate them with regard to inspections and so on. When we are dealing with children, these are very vulnerable class of people who are susceptible to manipulation, though we have good intentions, bad outcomes can also infiltrate these institutions.

(1) Does her department have a policy?

(2) If yes, what is the policy?

(3) What are the rules?

(4) Are there going to be inspections or not?

(5) Are we going to support it or not?

In the City, we are ready to hear what the Government is going to say but we are watching and waiting for the Government. We are going to do our part to start investigation

and what can be done, but we haven't seen any leadership from the Department responsible yet.

(6) In line with the children in our cities, towns and everywhere in PNG, is the Minister and her people and the Censorship Board aware that there are people photographing young female children and posting them on the Internet. Everybody knows this; I have been sent some of those pictures by people in the city so that these issues can be addressed.

(7) Is the Censorship Board monitoring those types of activities, through the websites, to arrest these people? If the Minister is in doubt, I can give the pictures to the Minister right now.

Ms DELILAH GORE – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker and I thank the Governor of NCD for the valid questions.

My department is working on a policy and a Bill that will be tabled in Parliament soon. This Bill is called the Lukautim Pikinini Bill and it covers the laws that will help welfare officers and our partners who are looking after these children.

Mr Deputy Speaker, there was a study done on street children Downtown and that study proved that not all children that are seen on the streets are orphans. Only one per cent of those children are orphans.

The rest of the children are intentionally left on the streets by their parents with the intention that they will solicit alms to fend for their families. That's what the study showed with street children in Port Moresby and so we have the Lukautim Pikinini Bill which will be tabled in the next Meeting of Parliament for enactment and I will need the support of the NCD Governor for its passage.

This will be of great assistance because we have the NCDC Welfare Office which also stands to be governed by this Act when passed to look out for these destitute children.

Briefly, this law will lead the welfare officers to get these children and put them up in a home-like house and all the partners who are currently looking after children will be closely monitored. Parents who are abusing their children by forcing them to beg will be held responsible and prosecuted if need be.

So, that is the type of law that's coming up. I will table it in Parliament and am going to need all your support because this situation is not only unique to Port Moresby but is also prevalent in the major towns and cities.

03/04

Regarding the second question about censorship, I will also be bringing a Bill through Cabinet to Parliament regarding censorship. And, yes, this Bill will address such issues like access to pornographic materials from the Internet through mobile phones and items that are brought into our country that are not suitable for the children. Therefore, this law will help to stop such things from happening in our country.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Supplementary Question

Mr ROBERT GANIM – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Last year in the first session of Parliament I asked this same question to the former Minister. My question then was a bit too broad where it concerned the disabled, disadvantaged and orphans in our cities and main towns.

The former Minister then assured the Parliament that they were working on a paper that would be presented to Parliament that would address the concerns that were recently raised by the Governor of NCD. Nevertheless, it has taken almost a year for this paper to be tabled in Parliament.

Therefore, can the Minister tell this Parliament if indeed they are working on such a paper that would not only address issues concerning our children, but everyone as well like our disabled, disadvantaged and homeless as well? The Minister has already brought the *Lukautim Pikinini Act*.

Therefore, is the Minister and her department also looking at coming up with another paper that would also address our people who are disabled, disadvantaged, mentally ill and et cetera?

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mrs DELLIAH GORE – Mr Deputy Speaker, we do have a paper that will be tabled in Parliament and it is in its final draft. We could have done an announcement but the paper must go through a process. For example; the *Lukautim Pikinini Act* is now with the Attorney-General for verification or certification before it is tabled in Cabinet. With that, the draft for our people living with disability and who are disadvantaged is also in its final stage before it goes through for certification.

Therefore, the Bill is now in its final draft and when it is certified I will then present it to Parliament. The law also covers children and people living with a disability. Therefore, this Bill also is going through its final draft. Thus, I will be tabling this proposed law to the Parliament once it is certified.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr KERENGA KUA – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Yesterday, I asked a question to the Minister for Petroleum and Energy about his intentions of making available cheap gas for domestic use in the future. He, therefore, tried to answer the question but he never fully answered the question and, therefore, I would like to advise the Deputy Speaker that I would like to reserve my right to ask that question again, perhaps after next week after he has had some time to think about it.

Nevertheless, what the Honourable Minister did do was advise the Parliament that he has negotiated some provision for up to 15 percent of gas produced in the Stanley Gas Project Area for domestic use. And that is a good step forward but as I have been trying to say, we need to complete that step by making sure that we negotiate a price that is cheaper than the international price.

Therefore, I would like to ask the Minister now if he has any information today, having told us that he has successfully secured 15 per cent of the production, and whether he has any information about what price we are going to buy it for.

04/04

Whether it is going to be international price which, in the end, in my view, will make no difference whether we buy it from Stanley Gas or from Alaska the price will be the same so it makes no difference to Papua New Guinea.

This Parliament needs to know whether the price that is secured is cheaper than international price so he can pass it on to PNG Power. Minister for State Enterprise is struggling to find cheap energy, is he going to use this opportunity to make cheap gas available and to provide cheap power to all of PNG, we need to know. We can do it through proper negotiation, Mr Deputy Speaker, we are the Government. We got the power to ask for and receive goods at beneficial prices. So the question is, has the Minister used this opportunity to negotiate a price which is good for us a price that we can use to industrialize this nation?

Mr NIXON DUBAN – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for Sinasina-Yonggumul for the question, I think that question is very important and I would like to explain in broad terms.

Let me make reference to Stanley Gas. As I expressed in the media, they are now undergoing a review and issues relating to the price matrix may have not been given the desired prominence that will make sense in this discussion or the question.

But I want to put on record that one of the dailies this morning referred to me as minister deviating from the price formula. One of the reasons I didn't disclose the price in detail is because the price that has been agreed to is an MOU between two parties.

Most of you would be fully aware that when you have an agreement or an MOU there is always a non-disclosure clause that will protect that information.

I want to say that the MOU is a public document and information contained in it will soon be made public.

Mr Deputy Speaker, let me make reference to the MOU. It carries a detailed calculation on the pricing which will be used for the benefit of this question.

Mr Deputy Speaker, on record, in this country Porgera power is one of those arrangement in which gas is powering electricity. Up there they are using a formula which is based on the Japanese Crude Cocktail. And that is the price mechanism that is shared internationally.

That is an independent price shared by the world market because Japanese Crude Cocktail price is the standard formula that is allowed in calculating the prices allowed for purchase of gas.

Porgera at this point in time is selling at about 12 per cent of the JCC, now that is basically 12 per cent of the price per barrel. At this point in time it is US\$52 dollars per barrel. So if you calculate it, it is 12 per cent of the US\$52.

For the purpose of adequately answering that question, the MOU which is a clear document that will be utilised for the purpose of buying power for Port Moresby was successfully negotiated to nine per cent of JCC which is about US\$0.48 or 48 cents.

If you look at PNG Power, at the moment PNG Power has an 80t kilowatt per hour which is the current standard and if you look at the price of the gas that will become available it will be cheaper or less than half the price of diesel.

So, nine per cent of JCC is a very successful outcome by the State. On international

markets you have 14 to 17 per cent of JCC so at nine per cent it has been successfully negotiated under the MOU and that will set the precedent for future gas pricing in this country.

Supplementary Question

Mr RON GANARAFO – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. When Mr William Duma was Minister for Petroleum and Energy I asked him a question about down-stream processing.

We have two lots of oil and gas, one is the LNG and the other one is the one in Gulf.

05/04

From what I know, there is plenty more which has not become public knowledge yet. Look at InterOil, they set up their factory here in Port Moresby and they were importing the raw product and fuel from Singapore and they were processing the oil here and now they have moved on. It has been taken over by another company so why don't we learn from them. I know that LNG and ExxonMobil have an agreement but I am talking about the new one in Gulf and Western province.

Can the Minister come up with another agreement to establish a downstream processing plant here?

Mr NIXON DUBAN – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and I thank the Member for Daulo. The Member has asked a very important question in terms of downstream processing because if we continue to export our gas we may eventually run out so the Government has looked into that matter and one of the issues is the standards of domestic market obligation.

The State has negotiated for a share of 15 per cent and that is the volume of gas that the Government can control. So the Government can now use this 15 per cent for purposes of electricity or for petrochemical productions or anything that is considered as downstream. These things are new interventions by the Government unlike before when they wanted to keep all the gas to meet the requirements of creating an LNG train. Now we have this opportunity because there has been a demand for the domestic market obligation to be made public.

For the first time in the country, we have a share of percentage in these agreement but I want to clarify that the 15 per cent is not part of the legislation in the *Oil and Gas Act* thus its not mandatory for all other developers to follow this arrangement. Therefore, the next time when talking about downstream processing, we must take into consideration the economics of the project; otherwise if we demand too much, it will affect the developer's ability to meet its target per train. So if the State gets too much share it will affect the developer's strength.

The Prime Minister has provided us with good leadership and we have some very good people negotiating for the terms and conditions of these projects and if we make this 15 per cent a standard law provision then it will apply for all the projects, but it is a negotiated term under the project agreement and the 15 per cent share is a huge share. I'm sure that the Elk Antelope project will have disagreements with the developers because they might feel that they are losing a lot of gas. We must be reasonable with our developers but at the same time promote downstream processing.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I assure the Member for Daulo that the Government has learned well from its experiences with Stanley Gas, and for any future negotiations of other gas projects in this country, we will talk more about this DMO and the record set by Stanley gas that it gave 15 per cent shares under the project agreement and this will become a reference for negotiating future agreements. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

06/04

Mr SASINDRA MUTHUVEL – Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to direct my questions to the Minister for Finance.

Mr Deputy Speaker, there is a rumour that Government does not have enough funds.

(1) Are we on target with the money plan for 2015?

(2) Did we close the Budget for 2014 on time or not?

(3) For the benefit of all members when exactly will we receive this DSIP and PSIP for 2015?

Mr JAMES MARAPE – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Firstly, I want to congratulate you on behalf of my people of Tari-Pori for your appointment as the Deputy Speaker of National Parliament.

I want to thank the Governor of West New Britain for asking questions that are very important to many of the issues that are closer to many of our hearts as we sit in this Parliament.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in terms of the economy and our current position, we don't need to panic. If the Government is not composed and does not have money then you and I will not be sitting in this Parliament with electricity flowing and bills paid on time and our children in class.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in early January 2015, with the Free Education System, and K300 million was allocated to the Education Department to fast-track the tuition-fee-free program and have it rolled-out immediately. So the Government is not broke as many critics continue to say. The Government will never be broke and we will stick to our money plan. Under their leadership, the Treasurer and the Prime Minister are mindful of the global economic situation that confronts us as we go especially within the context of declining oil price and many of our minerals, which depends on the export from our minerals and commodities. We are closely monitoring the situation out there but for the benefit of our people and the Parliament, let me comfort everyone that our economy is on track. The expenditure for January is satisfied and we are now going into February.

Mr Deputy Speaker, all Government programs will run on target as planned for. Let me take this time to assure our people that all economy are on track and we will honour all our commitments as we did last year

On the second question on the close of account; Mr Deputy Speaker, we closed our account last year on time. For 2014, our records stand that this Government's books were well kept and on track as our expenditure stood at 97 per cent over total budget commitment last year.

I know that with some of the remaining 3 per cent, there were some National Government projects deferred to 2015, because we ran out of time last year. And definitely this year some of the key roads and highway projects right across the country will kick-start. About 97 per cent of our total Budget for 2014 has been fulfilled. One or two programs were barred by court to be implemented for instances the IDC program. The court has instructed us that we must not honor them because there are some issues before court. So it is only 3 per cent that has been deferred to 2015 and that amounts to nothing.

07/04

Last year's programs were deferred and is now part of the government program for 2015 and onwards. As far as the DSIP and PSIP are concerned, there is no district or LLG or province in this country, for that matter had been underserving as far as the DSIP and PSIP is concerned.

We are fully set and have remitted to all districts, provinces and LLGs in this country what was budgeted for in the 2014 appropriation. For this year, let me assure the Parliament and the Members that, as we go into February, we will look into the cash flow and we are now starting to honour our big ticket item which is Free Education. This amounts to almost K600 million.

In fact, K603 million will be completely transferred from Waigani public accounts to the Education Department. We have cleared that commitment to our people and their children, our next commitment will be in our development program. One that continues to remain is the PSIP and DSIP priority but the important prerequisite that I request from every district, LLG and province is to submit or provide acquittals in order for you to access the funds.

Let me guarantee and assure this House and the Governor in his reply to the question that the PSIP and DSIP are coming. As with the conclusion of 2014, we are all sure to conclude 2015 in 100 per cent remittance to every district and province in the country. The first instalment is coming very soon but the onus is on you to ensure that Planning, Treasury and Finance receive your acquittals before the first batch is released to you.

Mr JOE KOIM KOMUN –Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for recognising the people of Anglimp-South Waghi. I congratulate you on your election as the Deputy Speaker. My question is directed to the Attorney-General but since he is not here, I re-direct it to the Prime Minister.

It is an issue that is eating into our fabric in the country in relation to compensation. It comes in all forms and is becoming an industry in the country. So I would like to know whether the Government has plans to regulate this industry that is getting out of hand whether it is compensation of a dead body, property damage, and others. It is definitely getting out of hand and the Government needs to do something. Can we regulate this industry?

Mr PETER O'NEILL –Thank you Deputy Speaker. Let me congratulate you on your re-election to being the Deputy Speaker. And I thank the Member for Anglimp-South Waghi for his questions. It is very true that compensation is becoming a very big concern in the country even when we have natural disasters.

And people are seeking compensation for every act that is taking place in the country. it is time now that we try and find a legislative approach in managing these claims throughout the country.

Let me inform this House that we will start working and giving directions to the Attorney General's Office to formulate a legislative structure for us to put forward to Parliament in the coming months.

Mr JOSEPH YOPYYOPY – My question is directed to the Minister for Education to be raised through the Chair. When are you going to sack the officers involved with the teachers' leave fares? The issue with teachers' leave fares has been a problem for the last 15 to 20 years. Nothing has been done to solve the issue. The buck stops with the officers sitting at Fincorp Haus.

08/04

I think the teachers will expect nothing less than sacking the officers so that we can get officers who can do the work.

If we talk about quality of education and we look after teachers and give them good incentives such as leave fares to travel back and forth to their villages, I think those are the things that will give them the boost to stand up and give quality education to our children. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr NICK KUMAN – Thank you, Member for Wosera-Gawi let me answer the question by series.

In relation to the sacking of officers, they are workers of the country. All we need to understand is why the problem has not been addressed.

It is the responsibility of the provinces. It is an over decentralised system where every provincial government is accountable for teachers welfare, except in Waigani, where we only look after the salaries and wages which is managed by Treasury.

The Fincorp officers don't keep any money for the teachers and I want to make sure that this is on record.

Annually we account and budget for teachers leave fares and those monies are remitted to the provinces. All the 24 provinces in the country receive these monies but the only problem is the delay in payments. If the warrant comes out in May or June, the teachers will get their entitlement on time at the later part of the academic year so they can go for holidays when the school closes and get their leave fares be paid to them but when the Warrant comes out in the later part of October or November those monies are still remitted to the 24 provinces in PNG. Last year, warrants were issued in the later part of October, totalling to K26.1 million, and out of that money not even one single toea remains here in Waigani.

All those monies were remitted into the Provincial Treasury. With the exception of Western and Chimbu Provinces, every other province in the remaining 22 Provinces were all paid out to the teachers.

Of course the Honourable Member of Wabag and the Committee on the Teachers Welfare travelled right throughout the country and now I have got the report.

I will give you the response and I will Table that Report next week and you will appreciate the amount of problems that have accumulated over many years.

The problem we have now is to do with accumulated leave fares not been paid and, obviously, if you come from the Public Sector background you will understand that after two years we don't take that leave automatically, you forfeit that leave, the is the General Order.

We have some situations in the Eastern Highlands for instance who are now before the Court because of the accumulated leave fares that have built up in the Eastern Highlands due to mismanagement in that Province.

It is nothing to do with the Officers in Waigani, I think it is to do with mismanagement in the Provinces with the Provincial Education Advisor and his team in the Provinces which directly comes under the Provincial Government and they don't report to the National Education Department.

We only manage the systems, standards and whatever money that is given to the provinces as part of the decentralisation process. We ensure that those monies go into these Provinces.

09/04

Lastly, to all the teachers around the country who are due to take leave end of next year you must ensure that your leave application must be received by the National Education

Department no later than May. This means the process must be complete and by April must be forwarded to the Provincial Education Office, so that the Provincial Education Office can budget to accommodate the teachers who will be proceeding on leave in the later part of 2016.

We will prepare an account for those teachers who are going on leave in 2016 in our next year's budget preparation this year. But if you come in the later part of the year and decide to go on leave in October or December then you are late and will not be accountable for when the money goes to the Province. Those who have applied earlier as mentioned will take the leave but if you applied late and you will still complain because you are entitle to it. But there is no extra money for that.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to thank the Government because they have increased the Budget ceiling from K26-31 million this year. I hope we are not in the business of second people but as per the Parliamentary Committee's Report, I am going to make an appropriate response and make a ministerial statement detailing how we can manage this properly.

Maybe we can go to an Alesco Payroll System and we accommodate those on leave in one field and they can be paid directly to the teachers through the bank instead of going through the process.

Supplementary Questions

Mr POWES PARKOP – In line with the questions from the Member for Wosera-Gawi, my questions are:

(1) When will the Minister remove or has he already removed those officers within the NCD Education Division who have over committed the Government with K200 million as per indicated by the Minister's Report last year?

(2) Has the Minister taken any actions again them?

(3) Has he paid the contractor in full or not?

Some contractors are genuine who have done honest work while others have not instead they retaliate and involve innocent people.

Mr NICK KUMAN – I have already received the external audit report which will be forwarded to the Cabinet. So the Cabinet will do an appropriate decision. I will inform the public of the Cabinet's decision. We need to get to the bottom of this problem which has been

outstanding for almost seven years. I will be guided by the NEC decision so until such time NEC get the report and make the decision, I cannot disclose any information now.

Mr ISAAC WAIGAVARA – My question is in relation to TAC Company that were building a road from Raifiga to Okapa but for unknown reasons they packed up and left. We have lodged complaints through the Minister for Works Office but nothing has been done.

Can the Minister and his department ask the Company to return and complete its job? The money was already paid to them, otherwise we can engage another company to come in and complete roadwork.

10/04

Mr FRANCIS AWESA – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I want to thank the honourable Member for Okapa for these very important questions.

I am not aware of the background to the story of this contractor leaving the site and wandering off somewhere after receiving all the payments, in full or in part.

I would like the Member to put these questions on the Notice Paper, so I can give him a detailed answer on Tuesday next week.

Mr BELDEN NAMAHA – I ask leave of the Chair to ask questions to the Chair. Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. My question is a question of clarification from the Deputy Speaker on the leadership status of Honourable Patrick Pruaitch.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I have with me a copy of a decision of a Supreme Court of Papua New Guinea dated 3rd December 2014 in which an appeal by the Honourable Patrick Pruaitch

–

Mr James Marape – Point of Order! Matters pertaining to issues before the court are not to be raised in this Parliament.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – The matter is before the courts.

Mr BELDEN NAMAHA – The matter is not before the courts, the decision has been made, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Ask the question.

Mr BELDEN NAMAHAH – Mr Deputy Speaker, I have with me a copy of a decision of the Supreme Court of Papua New Guinea, dated 3 December 2014, in which an appeal was made by the Honourable Patrick Pruaitch, Member for Aitape-Lumi and Minister for Treasury, to prevent a leadership tribunal from proceeding to hear allegations of misconduct in office against him was dismissed. A stay order against his suspension from office has also lapsed upon the court making its final ruling.

Mr James Marape – Point of Order! I thought Question Time was when back benchers ask respective Ministers about the roles and responsibilities they hold. This is a personal matter that he should take up outside of this Parliament.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – The Chair will allow the Member to continue

Mr BELDEN NAMAHAH – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. The effect of this ruling, in my opinion, is that the honourable Member for Aitape-Lumi remains suspended from office and cannot continue to perform official duties, including attendance on the Floor of this honourable House.

My question are - :

(1) Mr Deputy Speaker, is this, has the Supreme Court Registrar's Office duly advised the Speaker's Office of this decision and if so, when will you act on it.

(2) If your office has not been duly advised, could the Speaker's Office seek an official advice from the Supreme Court Registry on the matter and advise the Parliament accordingly?

I would like to also seek leave of the Chair to tender the Supreme Court decision for ease of reference to yourself, the Prime Minister and the Attorney-General.

Mr Peter O'Neill – Point of Order! Whilst I respect my good honourable Member for Vanimo-Green for his questions, normally in such matters such as this, from my experience, Mr Speaker, the Governor-General or sometimes the courts themselves would write directly to the Speaker informing him of their decision.

11/04

But I do not recall a case where Members of Parliament have been asked to interpret these matters.

Mr Speaker, therefore, I think this matter is out of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – The Chair has resolved that the question will be answered at a later date next week.

Therefore, you need to seek leave of the Chair to table the document

Mr BELDEN NAMAHA – Mr Deputy Speaker, I know that Parliament will reject this but my point here is that, we have to correct this or else he will be acting illegally in the Office of the Treasurer. I want to make that point very clear here.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Member, you need to seek leave of the Parliament.

Mr BELDEN NAMAHA (Vanimo-Green) – I seek leave of the Parliament to table the documents.

I know it is going to be refused.

Objection being raised, leave not granted.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr PATRICK PRUAITCH (Aitape-Lumi – Minister for Treasury) – I ask leave of the Chair to make a personal explanation in relation to questions asked by the Honourable Member for Vanimo-Green.

I would like to also take this opportunity to congratulate you on your re-election as the Deputy Speaker of Parliament.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Do you claim to have been misrepresented?

Mr PATRICK PRUAITCH – Yes, Sir!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Go ahead, leave is granted.

Mr PATRICK PRUAITCH – Mr Deputy Speaker, I find it strange that the Member for Vanimo-Green had to raise this matter on the Floor of Parliament when he has access to my phone. Instead, he chose to come to Parliament to ask those questions when he always texts me and calls me up for other things.

(Members interjecting)

Mr PATRICK PRUAITCH – Therefore, I could have easily explained to him then.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr PATRICK PRUAITCH – Mr Speaker, for the benefit of the Member for Vanimo-Green and for your information as well. I played a major part in his release as a prisoner of the State and that should be on record.

I also played a major part in his election as a Member of Parliament –

Mr Tobias Kulang – Point of Order! I do not know if we should get engaged in personal issues.

Mr PATRICK PRUAITCH – Mr Deputy Speaker, I have not been dejected and I think that it is only fair that Honourable Members are given some benefit of some history.

Mr Deputy Speaker, regarding my case, there is a standing three-men bench Supreme Court decision – a recent decision of a National Court, let me correct myself there. Therefore, it was a decision of a National Court on a secondary matter that I had initiated with my lawyers to ask for discovery of work done by the Ombudsman Commission.

12/04

That decision was overturned by a National Court decision and I am currently appealing against that decision. However, the Supreme Court decision to prevent further

action taken by all parties is still imposed Mr Speaker, and I am willing to provide that to the honourable Member for Vanimo-Green and to your office if need be.

GREIVANCE DEBATE

Question proposed – That the grievances be noted.

Mr WERA MORI (Chuave) – Thankyou, Mr Deputy Speaker, once again congratulations on your elevation and appointment to the position of Deputy Speaker. It is only fair that as Members of Parliament we are elected here to engage in on constructive debates that are of national importance.

I would like to begin my grievances by commenting on the unprecedented GDP that is predicted for Papua New Guinea.

Mr Deputy Speaker, what I am trying to say is from my experiences as a Member for a rural area and I know that it will not go down well with my friends from the national Capital District and if I do not raise these issues, I will do injustice to the people of Chuave who live in a rural area and who have elected me.

We all know that PNG has predicted a GDP growth of 15 per cent and that the growth will be healthy up until the year 2020. This has been made known not only by ANZ but of course stated in the economic outlook of Asian report.

Mr Deputy Speaker there's a lot of money poured into NCD which is good because we will be hosting major events in 2015 and of course the APEC meeting in 2018. But the question that I must ask and I'm pretty sure that many others who represent rural electorates will ask we are going to translate the developments that is taking place in the National Capital District to the rural communities. It is good to showcase to other countries our capital city Port Moresby but one of the saddest factors is that a lot of the infrastructures created would benefit or create opportunities for the bulk of our people except for the 10 per cent that dwell in the city.

In recent months we have seen the pegging of the kina and this is good to give buying power and especially to enable our contractors to be able to bring in machinery but one unfortunate factor is that it had impacted negatively on the prices of coffee, cocoa and copra.

Mr Deputy Speaker, close to six million people representing 75 per cent of the population depends on these primary produces of coffee, cocoa and the coconut industry. What had happened was, when the kina was pegged the net foreign exchange gains that were translated and passed on to the little growers in the villages dissipated. The prices of coffee came down and unfortunately many of our coffee farmers are now beginning to abandon their coffee gardens. I do remember there was once a time some years ago when the price of coffee was so bad many farmers converted their coffee gardens to kaukau gardens and sent them to Port Moresby to feed the city population. We do not want to see this happening again and it is important that in light of all these activities and expenditures I would like to see the government reintroducing the price stabilisation formula for coffee, cocoa and copra. We must be able to support our people that are living in the rural areas. As you know, many of them would not have the opportunity to come to Port Moresby, and we do not want them to come to Port Moresby and I am sure the Governor of NCD will agree with me. It is only fair that we must re-establish the commodity boards. These are important so that they may be able to effectively govern that industry which is a very important industry.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as a matter of fact, we have a situation now today and I know the Minister of Agriculture is not here and he may not be happy, but we have given up so many exporting licenses and many of them are paper famers who did not even export one bag of green beans.

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A lot of the exporters today have worked hard, they have spent a lot of money and they are able to sustain the industry and it's a disincentive to those who have been working hard and trying their best to improve the number of bags so at least we can exceed the one million bags and we are still struggling.

Mr Deputy Speaker, it is important that we must take note of this because if don't, we may see our very important primary industry going down.

Mr Speaker, we have made very important economic investment decisions, we have invested in mines and acquired shares in Oil Search but one of the things I would like to point out is the Tolukuma mine's care and maintenance. We have also acquired OK Tedi and that is a good thing but in countries where they have nationalised the mining industry, the records are not good.

I would like to make particular reference to a African State of Zambia which is one of the biggest State of copper producers until the 1970's. They decided to nationalise their copper industry and for 20 years they took a nose dive and the South American countries like Chilli, Bolivia and Argentina overtook them. We must take note and we have to take precautions now that we are going to have Wafi and Freda River coming on-stream.

Mr Deputy Speaker, it is very important that we take a precautious approach so that we do not kill the industry. I'm pretty sure that sometimes soon the Minister for Mining maybe presenting a paper to this Parliament and it is frightening that there is a major decline in exploration. In the mining industry there is a need for exploration because it is healthy for the industry and that is where you get the sources to sustain existing mines and also to discover new mines.

Mr TITUS PHILEMON (Milne Bay) – Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker, for recognising me to share some of my grievances to this Parliament. Before I do, I want to congratulate you once again on your elevation to the position of Deputy Speaker of this Parliament.

I would also like to congratulate the Prime Minister for his fiftieth birthday today. The people of Milne Bay today presented a gift to the Prime Minister through the Minister for Forest and Member for Kiriwina-Goodenough.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my grievance debate this morning is in regards to a series of questions that I raised during the Tuesday session of Parliament regarding the rejection of students from higher institutions in the country, which the Minister for Education asked me to put on Question Paper and I did. I also raised that question to the Minister for Higher education. I want to raise this issue again because it is very important.

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The students from my province are faced with the tuition fee problems and likewise in the other provinces as well.

Most of these students have been selected to further their studies in other higher institutions but because of the parental component not being paid on time they have been rejected. Some provincial governments took on that responsibility but because of timing, those students have to be at these institutions and when they went without the fees they were told not to access facilities at these higher institutions.

We know that some of these students come from faraway places and most of them go to these colleges for their first time and they don't have relatives close by to take care of them. When they are treated in such a manner it does not encourage education in this country at all.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Milne Bay Provincial Government allocated K1 million for the scholarship program. But we could not get the cheques processed on time for the students to register and when letter of commitments and assurance were sent to these government-run institutions they rejected the students. These institutions are government-run institutions and we represent the government of the day. We are not private firms sending letter of commitments to them. They should allow the students to register to settle in and give them a period of time to pay, maybe the first quarter and if they don't keep up with their commitments then they tell their sponsor to pay upfront. They should at least give them time to begin their school year comfortably without treating them in such a manner.

We are talking about improving education in this country and on the other hand, we are treating our children unfairly. It does not work out for the good of this nation as far as education is concern.

Mr Deputy Speaker, because of the systems that we have in the provincial governments, it sometimes delays the printing and budgets are not approved on time and that contributes to the delay in release of funds for these institutions. And these institutions should have funds available from HECAS to start the school year.

Most parents struggle to find fees for their children, therefore, the provincial governments take on-board to assist the parents through the DSIP and PSIP funds.

I am raising this issue because most of the students and parents wanted me to raise it during the Grievance Debate so that government is aware of what is happening right around the country.

I want the Minister for Higher Education to make sure that the 2016 school year must start with ease so that the provincial governments with their districts are given enough time to pay fees for the students that they are sponsoring.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my second grievance is on Air Nuigini and I want the Minister for Culture and Tourism and Minister for Public Enterprises to take note of my grievances.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Milne Bay is a progressive province and it's developing and it has a huge tourism potential. I want to thank the Prime Minister and the Government for recognising Milne Bay as a cruise tourism model province in this country. It is no longer

model anymore but growing into maturity and this month (February) we are going to receive three cruise ships in Milne Bay and this year 11 cruise ships. On behalf of the business community, tourist industry and the general public in Milne Bay Province, I ask why Air Niugini does not cater for flights to Gurney?

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From Cairns, Air Niugini flies direct to Tokua and over us in Milne Bay but does not land there. Do I have to raise it in Parliament before anything can be done about it? Or write to the Minister responsible for something to be done?

Can't they use their own initiative and provide this very vital service as my province is reachable by air and sea only. We have done nothing wrong in the past and we are a progressive province and we have a high tourism potential. The business community is now growing and investment is coming into Milne Bay so why can't Air Niugini land on Gurney Airport?

I know during the Prime Minister's visit in December 2014, he made an undertaking that he would do that but I am just raising it again because many times when we write letters we do not get any prompt feedback or we waste our time. This is my biggest grievance that I want addressed in this term of Parliament because we are a growing tourism hub and our business and other investors to the province are increasing so we need the major airline to service our province too.

If the airline company wants contribution from the provincial government, we can do that. East New Britain province has done that so if they want contribution from us to do that we will do that. It is unfair for us, not to be recognised as a province by Air Niugini in this country, even when we have all the requirements for the planes to land. I thank you that the government has taken note of this and I hope to get a positive feedback soon.

Mr ATI WOBIRO (Western) – On behalf of the people of Western, especially the people of South Fly, I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as the Deputy Speaker and we are happy for the recognition given to you.

In the recent weeks we have seen a lot of media commentary and statements on the 80 asylum seekers that have been found to be suitable for settlement in Papua New Guinea and I just want to air my views on how this resettlement might be addressed.

I know the Government and the honourable Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration has his own plans but I just feel that perhaps this is an opportunity for Papua New Guinea to create a new system for accepting and allowing people from outside who want to be citizens of this country and settle under a new arrangement. We are a society based on tribes and clans.

Perhaps when the Government is thinking about resettling these 80 former asylum seekers in the country, this is the strategy we should look at so that we do not create another sub set of citizens where they are completely integrated into our culture which is based on tribes and clans.

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Perhaps the Minister could look at inviting tribes and clans who are interested in adopting not only this asylum seekers but also people in the future who want to settle in this country, so that we don't create different classes of people which could bring social conflict in the future.

I think it is very important that we make them feel like they are part of our society and it is only with these kind of arrangements that people who chose to come and settle here will feel that they are secure, they are welcome in this country and they will be prepared to make a meaningful contribution to the development of this country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the second matter is in regard to our brothers and sisters who have been living in East Awin for a very long time.

I know that I have raised this question on the Floor of Parliament a number of times but I want to see them quickly integrate them into Papua New Guinean society.

These are former refugees from West Papua who have been living in East Awin for a very long time.

I want the Government to please take a very proactive step in addressing their situation, granting them citizenship if they qualify so that they can also make a meaning contribution to this society, they are very good hard workers.

We have been talking about rice and just recently, the Minister for Agriculture presented to us a policy on rice and these people are born rice growers and they are over 3000 of them.

This is one group of people who can quickly help our own Papua New Guineans to settle in the culture of growing rice.

Finally, Mr Deputy Speaker, I again want to take advantage of this debate to talk about another issue that is very close to my heart and it is about soldiers serving on the borders on the Western Province Indonesian Border, especially those who are serving in Wiam.

It grieves me all the time when soldiers come to me whenever I go to the Province to tell me that they are short of food, they are short of logistics, and they don't have fuel to protect our sea borders.

It is very saddening that we can allow our soldiers who are prepared to do a job on the border and not assist them and not give them the logistical support to work. I hope that the relevant ministers and the government will take steps to look after our people.

I don't mind helping out our soldiers, they are doing a fine job for us but I want a proper arrangement to be made so that our people feel that their contribution to the country is valued. They are working under a very difficult environment and Wiam is very far from Daru.

There used to be a major illegal bech-de-mer trade right up to Daru but since the posting of these soldiers, they have done a great job by stopping the illegal traders coming in from Indonesia.

I am hoping that the commitment of the Deputy Prime Minister, who is responsible for border development, to develop a proper and permanent border post that we have in Butum will be realised soon because there is great potential for trade with Indonesia.

Recently, I sent some of my officers to investigate on what input we can bring from Merauke and they were all excited. For instance, Merauke, where houses are all full of rice even though Merauke is a city of over a million, can bring rice cheaply to Papua New Guinea.

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For those of us residing in Western Province unfortunately Port Moresby is too far. We are hoping that the border post will be set up so that we can access Merauki in order to bring in cheap development input into the Province. Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr MARK MAIPAKAI (Kikori) – I also wish to congratulate you in your elevation as the Deputy Speaker of this House and on behalf of my people I congratulate the Prime Minister on his 50th birth day.

There are few matters of importance that I would like to bring to the attention of this honourable House and one very touchy issue is the issue of national contact. If you drive to Lealea plant you will see how the landowners have progressed.

As the Minister for Labour I saw 50 000 foreign employees coming into Gulf. The Contract award was well over K14 billion. Nothing remain or very little remain in this country. The pipe lays in my soil in Kikori. However, we are now talking about the next LNG Plant, the PNG LNG Plant which comes from my province. So I do not want us to repeat the same mistake.

Whilst having the preview and as the State Minister negotiating the ExxonMobil there are few things that we need to wield. One is the issue of the Tival and the third party access that was finally dropped in the last negotiation. What did the Tival do? Basically, to allow other investors who are interested in doing DME or domestic Processing. It is like adding couple more taps to what we already have. So you can access those taps to run a processing product out of the carbon. But we did away with that.

So the third party access is a contract for issue whereby if there is a stranded field and you wish to download or bring in a gas from there. Stranded field means you cannot develop on stand along. The quantity of gas is well below a gas reserve required to run a processing plant.

Mr Deputy Speaker, most of my fields in Gulf apart from what has been discovered on LK Antelope is stranded field.

Now, how can a developer who discovers a stranded field brings his product on to a main stream, it is through this particular agreement. Currently the pipe line is owned by ExxonMobil. So if you want to use that you have to negotiate or you will face difficulty because this provision does not allow you to utilise the pipe.

Therefore, I may have the opportunity to sit in the Cabinet but whatever you are doing in terms of negotiating please ensure that you are doing the right thing. This is why Konebada Petroleum is a ghost name which will never happen. ExxonMobil never offloads. It does not have any access gas. If only those provisions were in agreement, by way of that provision you can build up Konebada Plant. It only that third party was allowed in the agreement some of the fields that are stranded can fight in through that agreement.

So we do not want to see this happen in the LK Antelope project. That must never happen.

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That must never happen and I am calling on the Government to come on a serious note on the local content because in the last negotiation ExxonMobil never disclosed any local content, however way we, Papua New Guineans, are going to participate in case of magnitude of contracts we are going to be awarded. They kept that to the last hour because back at the boardrooms they were already talking with other players. This must not happen today. You insist on 30 per cent by way of legislation and that must happen, in this government. That is the only way you can build up your capacity.

Otherwise, whether it's mining, petroleum or any other resources, you will still continue to be fence-sitters. You will still be marginalised. Only by way of legislation can we advance ourselves because with the percentage of local content you can go and bid or find some other persons who can be a partner with you.

So long as you are a landowner, you can carry him on your shoulder and say, I have got this player, he's a big boy and he's been with me, I want to be a partner in construction of the pipeline or in building the gas plant.

They left us with what is called the 'third category contracts'. What is the third category contract? These are things such as recruitment agencies, transport hire, catering and security and that is why, when you ask where is LABA today, LABA does not exist. You go and see how many plants are in their yard without any jobs. Go and see how many Porebadas and Lealeas who are left out of a job. They had well over 3000 – 4000 staff, today there is only a skeleton staff of less than a thousand. They are just there manning the plants. So what happened to the legitimate people?

What is happening to the Kikori Pipeline people where the pipeline is now buried? All the excitement was when the construction was on. After the grass grew over the place, there is nothing in Kikori.

You can you say anything but as leaders, we have no choice in this Parliament. We've got to protect our people.

This National Content Policy must be brought before this Parliament. We must make decisions by way of legislation. That's the only way our people can build up capacity, that's the only way they can go and borrow billions. That's the only way they can advance to the next stage in construction.

Without that local content being factored in by way of legislation into contracts, you will continue to play second fiddle and continue to be fence-sitters. And that is the why we have to correct this anomaly.

The issue of asylum seekers, if you are not sure what Australia gave, Australia gave enough money for the asylum seekers to buy houses, pay for their school fees and even go into businesses on our soil.

But, their destination is not Papua New Guinea. They were destined to be in Australia, not Papua New Guinea, therefore, however you bend backwards as a government, only a few will be settled here. They don't want to settle here. That's an incentive they were asked to accept to settle themselves in Papua New Guinea.

But if you look at the plight of these people, it is an international network, they come in batches of 20 or 30 and when they are picked up, they consist mostly of our Asian neighbour and they were moved at midnight to certain locations.

In Indonesia, human smuggling is not a crime, the entire security forces, including the army, navy and even the police are involved in it.

What are the dangers inherent in Papua New Guinea soil today?

19/04

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Member, your time is up.

Mr MARK MAIPAKAI – But mine is going to be a destination with the economic boom that we are facing today. You take from today and you will be quashed into your own corner.

Mr CAMILLUS DANGIMA (Kerowagi) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Let me join the queue of other Honourable Members who have congratulated you to the Chair in which you are sitting now as the Deputy Speaker.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Prime Minister on his 50th birthday.

I have this thing which has been burdening my heart for a long time now and I had wanted to bring it out during this grievance debate and it is about PNG Power. PNG Power, as we all know, does not have the capacity to be able to supply the demand that is required in this country.

As a Member who has just started a project in my electorate and into village regarding rural electrification, I have noticed that power is only going into my electorate for half a day every day. When you think about the establishment costs involved in providing rural electrification and only receiving power for a half a day or once a week is very embarrassing and shocking.

When you look at Papua New Guinea you will see big industries and consumers in the cities and everywhere else in the country want power because it is a source of development. We have got so many opportunities for thermal energy, hydro power and gas power and so much in this country and yet, as a government, we are not doing the right things that will holistically take care of the power problem in this country.

This is a serious matter and we just cannot sit here. When we see that there is a shortage of power, we go out and buy generators to help alleviate problems. Generators have been bought before and they have been servicing this country before this Government came into play. Nevertheless, we are still buying generators for this country. When then are we going to sit down and identify what the power requirements are for this country and make a holistic assessment of the whole thing in order to find suitable power alternatives in this country? We have got so much renewable energy sources in this country. We have got water, thermal, solar, wind and gas that can produce so much power that can take care of the entire country's needs.

Regardless of that, we are still not thinking holistically. You know, this is embarrassing. If we are running down the country down and getting big loans to help develop resources and infrastructure, then this is a very important infrastructure in this country because we all need it everywhere. We need to supply our local demand first and then we look forward to other places.

This is my grievance that I have for this country and I feel that this is necessary. I would like to ask the Minister for IBPC to look seriously into this matter to find a way forward for this country. Therefore, we can all look forward in ensuring that we have proper, established ways of setting up power generation that is capable in taking care of this country's power demand.

20/04

Our non-renewable resources to put it back into renewable resources sector because we are depending on a country that is producing money from oil, gas and other non-

renewable resources in this country and with those resources we are not thinking about developing agriculture and tourism industry in a big way. As the Governor of Milne Bay had alluded to earlier on, we need to go into building our renewable resources.

The Minister for Agriculture has done the right thing. I hope that is not just a paper. If it is just a paper we are wasting time in Papua New Guinea, we should not be here. Our people depend entirely on agriculture. Agriculture and tourism are the way to go.

We cannot just sit down and wait for it to happen. You can see all those resources that are there. We've got pigs, we've got coffee and we've got all other kinds of things that need to be made.

We need to go into big agriculture plots and build commodity farms in areas where there is huge land so that we can be able to grow sorghum and maize and all those other crops that we can be able to grow ourselves because right now we are importing so much of those things.

It is wrong, it is wrong in this country. We need to look at it in an holistic way so that we can develop this country in a sound and proper way to assist our country.

Mr BEN MICAH (Kavieng – Minister for State Enterprises and Investments) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Let me, on behalf of the people of Kavieng and the People's Progress Party, congratulate you on your assumption of the position of deputy chair of the House.

And to you, Prime Minister, welcome to the 50s. I think you now know what it is like to be looking in your 40s but feeling like you are in the 50s.

I wish to speak on one or two things. The first is on an announcement by the Prime Minister at the Leadership Summit which caught me off guard, because in the process of making that statement on our regional and international relationships with our partners in the region and the globe he made a profound statement on the issue affecting people who are of the same ethnicity as us on the other side of an imaginary line called a border.

These are our people but colonialism has resulted in the division of this great island of ours into what we call the Indonesian province of Papua and the Independent State of Papua New Guinea.

I wish to commend you, Prime Minister, on the stand you have taken and the statement you made which has caused a ripple in areas like Canberra, Djakarta and elsewhere in the world. In case some people feel that the Prime Minister made those remarks to colour

his speech at the Leadership Summit, but for the many years that I have known this person called Peter O'Neill, who is the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, I can vouch that he is someone who does not speak vain words. He does not just echo empty words, what he has said is something that he has thought out thoroughly before he says them.

I wish to state here that I was fortunately with him in one of the meetings that was held in Bali in 2011 with the former President of Indonesia, Sussilo Bambang Yodhoyono. In that bilateral meeting President Yodhoyono shocked us who were there at that meeting which included our former Attorney- General and former Minister for Foreign Affairs.

He made two very profound statements in that meeting with us, one of which was that he wanted to set the foundation for West Papua to move towards greater autonomy. And the second statement was that the Indonesian Military will have to move out of that place.

On that note, I wish to inform the people of Papua New Guinea, and this House, including all of us who may think that the Prime Minister was just making a passing comment. That was a serious policy statement which was revealed in that meeting by the former President of Indonesia. This laid the foundation for the bilateral discussion in Djakarta in 2013 when he made a State Visit and in the presence of 11 of our Ministers, President Yodhoyono reiterated the same point. He further strongly said that it was about time the government and the people of Indonesia and the government and people of Papua New Guinea recognise that there will be no peace or security in the region of these two countries unless we seek the path of mutual constructive dialogue on how to resolve the issues of Papua Province.

21/04

We seek the part of mutual constructive dialogue on how to resolve the issues of Papua. So Prime Minister, I would like to congratulate you on your stand. It is in context, it is not taken in any sort of way that is outside of earlier discussions that have already been established between the two countries and I want to encourage the Prime Minister and our Government to engage the Foreign Minister and his officers at Foreign Affairs to continue to engage with the new President who is a civilian to work towards that kind of situation because all the wars that are now taking place are redrawing and reshaping the boundaries of countries in the Middle East, Iraq, Syria, Turkey. It's because of the relations and religion that is causing all these wars and on top of it the oil and gas is also causing all these conflicts.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I do not want us to go down that path but to engage in constructive dialogue with Indonesia and eventually ensure that the part of our great island and our people who live in it are given what they deserve.

The other thing that surprised us was when the President announced to us that there are 20 million Melanesian people of our colour and tribe living in Indonesia in the provinces of Papua and Maluku and West Timor. I know that in Mindanao in Philippines there's another six million. There are Melanesians in Taiwan and Malaysia and this means that these places belong to our people and we must continue this understanding that Melanesia spreads from the eastern Fiji all the way to the Asian countries of Malaysia and Taiwan and Philippines and Indonesia and, therefore, it is important and the Prime Minister's statement must be put in context and perspective and we continue with this dialogue.

The other issue that I want to discuss is the issue of power. I want to assure you all especially the Deputy Opposition Leader, because your district has been assisting us a lot in providing power through one of the projects there with the assistance of PNG Forest Products who assisted in putting in place a nine megawatt generator and now we are negotiating for another 11 megawatt from Bulolo district and so for Kerowagi, I would like to assure the member that the Prime Minister and the Ministers are there and we are taking drastic actions to take control of the company and address the issues of power across the board. Not only power provided by PNG Power but private power as well. All issues of different sources of power are going to be addressed as suggested because I am now working on a tariff regime that will now determine the cost of power from generation to the metre and then we will tender.

The instructions from the Prime Minister and the Government regarding producing power production is any person or company, provincial or local level government can use biomass, gas water, solar to generate power in your province and then sell it to PNG. PNG Power will become the grid for distributing and retailing power. So that's the future of Power that we are now moving towards.

Finally, on the issue raised by our founding father who has challenged me on some issues of State-owned companies, I want to assure him and the other Members of this Parliament and also correct his statement in the media by saying this; avoid making rash statement in the media without consulting the people who are being affected in the Ministries, please stop it. Just ask me and I will correct it. The period he made reference to was when I was not even in Parliament, instead I was the executive chairman and not the Minister for

Public enterprise and I corporatised all these companies under Sir Mekere's privatisation policy.

22/04

I corporatised all these companies under Sir Mekere's privatisation policy; PNG Power, Air Nuigini and the other companies. Now that I am back, I want the Grand Chief, Member for Kerowaghi and the other members to trust me, the Prime Minister, Treasurer and the Government as a whole because we are working as a team to address these issues and they become profitable.

They are now declaring profit and dividends are being paid and audits have been done. So these companies are performing alright, maybe not to the best but they are okay.

If we had not done such decision before to merge Origin with Oil Search, PNGBC with BSP and create all these companies which we are now utilising to build up this business base for the Government, then we would not be in the position that we are today.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to assure the father of this country and Governor of East Sepik that if there are any queries, please, feel free to call me because you know my mobile number, I will instruct my officers to assist you in anyway.

Mr BIRE KIMISOPA (Goroka) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. On behalf of the people of Goroka, I congratulate you for being appointed as the Deputy Speaker of this Parliament. And also on behalf of the people of Goroka, I want to convey their well wishes and birthday greetings to their own son, Peter O'Neill, on his 50th birthday.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I will be short and brief on my debate because we are half way towards 2017.

My observation is that there are some issues affecting this country which are too complicated to solve. Some of these complicated issues are manmade problems and one of them is PNG Power. I will not be endearing to engage with the Minister for IPBC because he had a mouthful this morning.

Mr Deputy Speaker, on a smaller matter but of more significance in this country is one of the obscure agencies of government called NAQIA. It plays an important role in deciding what kind of products come onto our shore and their quality in terms of health standards and so forth. This is the most critical agency of government that in my view has been neglected for too long. Considering the growth of the economy since 2012, public

consumption has increased. Perhaps there has been some discussions in terms of the exchange rate and foreign currency levels that we have in this country. I would like to engage in this debate in terms of the way forward whether the Government can assist NAQIA in terms of making sure that the kinds of imports that come into this country meet the health standards, not only from two countries abroad but with the global community.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as you would appreciate Australia and New Zealand has the longest standing relationship in terms of quarantine protocols in this country. In other words if you were to bring poultry, beef and any meat products from the world into this country, the preferred destination is Australia and New Zealand. For obvious reasons Australia being engaged with this country prior to independence and also after independence in a bilateral arrangement where they consistently engage with our health and agriculture department. We still use the very old system governing importation of goods from abroad.

Mr Deputy Speaker, it will be interesting to know that there is roughly K1.5 billion worth of imports that come into this country, in the meat and poultry category. There is roughly about 250-300 containers being cleared out of Lae every month on poultry and meat.

23/04

Perhaps I do not have the figures for Port Moresby but would be roughly about four to five hundred because the consumption in the city of Port Moresby is quite high.

All in all we are looking at roughly K1.5 - K2 billion at the most but the way public consumption is going, the trend is moving upwards, so we will be shifting more money out of the country. There is already pressure on the exchange rate and the arrangement that we have with Australia and New Zealand is based on this long standing engagement. It is such that we cannot import meat and poultry elsewhere.

Our people need access to cheaper quality meat and poultry in this country. It is not hard but the arrangement as it is today is that for any fresh meat or poultry importer in the country they must fly out of this country with quarantine officials to that country of origin under their own expenses to see and tour the abattoirs and everything, get clearance and start importing.

This is the reason why only a few people in the country can import fresh meat, therefore, it is very expensive for our people to afford. It is one of the easiest things that we ought to do this year; share money with NAQIA, to travel the world and establish

arrangement for imports of dairy products, meat, and poultry so our people can have access to the imports.

We can save cost as well as our reserves. If we can cut the Bill from roughly around K2 billion, price of the meat products will be cheaper. Our people who are in business will also have sufficient disposal of income. They can reinvest again unlike PNG Power. Some of the things they want to accomplish in the country are very difficult.

But this one, Mr Deputy Speaker, is very easy to accomplish. We need to just fly our Health Inspector and the Officers from NAQIA and give them the kind of money they need to establish the import market. If not, we will be stuck with 60 or more impediments imposed by our colonial friends.

Mr Deputy Speaker, let me remind you that it is very difficult to import rice into the country but I am grateful the Government is embarking on trying to mitigate this problem to enable easy access to rice.

In order to import rice into our country, we must satisfy the health requirement called 'vitamin enrichment.' We had no nutrition problems in Papua New Guinea prior to Independence. No one died of it because Papua New Guineans were bigger and stocky in built. The Tolai, Sepik or Kerema were very tall people. Our people were healthy and we lived longer. Today, we are dying at the age of 45 or over.

We had all the nutrition in the world. We never needed butter and milk in those days, yet the whitemen came into the country and told us we are malnourished and we needed vitamins and enrichment in the rice. That is why we were stuck with one rice brand for the last 40 years. But they are not rice farmers.

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Mr Deputy Speaker, we should not import rice from elsewhere

Mr Deputy Speaker, they have been bringing rice from Vietnam and Thailand, processing it in Australia and repackaging it and selling it back to us because they know we are gullible fools, they are afraid of vitamin enrichment just give them.

Now if you go down to Australia and New Zealand or anywhere in the world and you go into a supermarket you will be surprised that rice from every corner of the world being sold. There is nothing about vitamin enrichment, why is the Department of Health insisting on vitamin enrichment? Why is NAQIA asking for clearance?

Papua New Guineans wants to bring rice in, but 1Kg of rice should be cheaper. It shouldn't be K4.00 a kilo, it should be K1.00, and so our people can buy at a cheaper price.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this is where we get ourselves confused and we start to believe lies. They told us we cannot grow rice and that we have vitamin enrichment problem in this country, it has been a 40-year lie.

We need to break this curse because our people need good food around the world. It is important we put the kind of resource, I was hoping the Minister of Agriculture was here and i will tell him to put some money in NAQIA and tell them to fly around the globe. We have a big country with 8 million people and we are dependent on imports.

Our industries are not strong yet so send them around the globe and set up the protocols for importation so that our people can have access to the kind of food Australians take for granted every day, like sausages, bacon and eggs. The Prime Minister is eating the same type of food the driver is eating in Papua New Guinea there is nothing like this. It is hard biscuits and that is why we are becoming the hard biscuit capital of the world. There are Snax or chicken and beef biscuit et cetera.

Mr SAM BASIL (Wau-Bulolo) - Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, first of all congratulations to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and Happy Birthday, Mr Prime Minister. We know we are not going to share in your birthday cake or be invited to your party but we are thinking about your birthday.

In November session last year, we passed a District Development Authority Bill which has been certified in December and gazetted to take effect from January 2015.

Mr Deputy Speaker, there were some Bills we passed that do not require much scrutiny or debates as these are consequential amendments. Some Bills relate to existing mechanism with implementation process already in place. For example, passing a Law to make an action to be an offence, this requires the Police to affect it.

Mr Deputy Speaker, whilst I appreciate the good intentions of the DDA Act, I realise that we may have forced ourselves into a corner that may contradict many issues on hand.

The Chief Secretary has already put out public advertisement that the Law is in operation this year. Also the public service machinery that would implement the Law is on the ground. I have also seen public advertisements with some Districts already calling them District Development Authority.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Bulolo District is ready to implement the Law and proceed with the service delivery process.

I got my counsel presidents and appointed Members of the JDBPPC to look at the provisions of the Law and to get the process in place.

Although we have no circular or information on how to go about, we went through the Law and noted certain provisions which we believe is inconsistent with other Laws or even impracticable to implement commencing immediately.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the intentions and objectives of the Law is good and provides from the former JDPBPC to become a legal entity that can sue and be sued and can enter into contracts or can engage into business.

The power and functions of the Authority provides for service delivery and also to take on some other functions which we cannot do with the current JDBPPC arrangements. The current public service structure in most districts is fixed certain departments and agencies and it cannot allow for additional staff as and when required.

As we know that the inclusion of this certain positions will require the process to undertake a review and go through the restructure committee and eventually to DPM that can take some time.

For example, in my district we may need additional Commerce and DPI officers to drive the business and agriculture departments but the structure does not have

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Whilst we are requesting for establishment of positions, the opportunities would have come and gone.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am aware that many of our JDPBPC had bought many heavy plant and equipment. These machines enquire mechanics, fuel, parts and wages for the drivers and operators.

The current Treasury operations do not support our operations when cheques cannot be processed effectively on fortnightly basis for the workers. When the district Treasury shuts down or warrants are not released, the machines, workers and the projects are affected.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the creation of the Secretariat allows us to engage specialist personnel such as Engineers, Tradesmen, Project Supervisors, and Project Officers et cetera. This Law will allow us to ensure projects are continuing and workers are paid on time and supplies and parts can be purchased as when required.

Mr Speaker, the issue I wish to bring to your attention is the effective implementation of the Bill and the process in achieving services delivery.

First, NCD and Bougainville are not covered under the Act. If that is the case, why should Open Members be given the DSIP or other grants? What happens to the Open Member and we might not have service delivery mechanism for them. I am aware that the *Organic Law on Provincial and Local Level Government* does not apply but they should have another mechanism.

Mr Speaker, the JDPBPC now becomes the DDA, and so what happens to the Provincial JDBPC. What are its functions and would it still exist?

The Service Delivery Functions Determination is required and requires consultation between the DDA Board and PEC and the Minister.

There is no time limit to ensure this is determined and gazetted. It might become a bureaucratic process. We must have a time limit for the consultation and determination.

Mr Speaker, the Provincial and Local Level Service Monitoring Authority is given the responsibility of monitoring and implementing the Act. This Authority is established under the *Organic Law on Provincial and Local Level Governments*. I am not sure whether it has the capacity to monitor and implement this Act when we have yet to see its capacity in terms of the Provincial Governments that it was supposed to monitor.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we are giving an added responsibility to this PLLSMA and whether they have the capacity and even the resources to get the DDA off the ground and ensure proper guidance and advice.

Mr Speaker, I take concern over Part 4 of the Act which is Section 16, 17 and 18 that puts the DDA under the spotlight of the Minister and NEC.

This provision allows for abuse of powers by an arrogant Minister or Government as we have seen in the past.

The NEC can suspend the DDA based on certain issues such as incompetence, inability or poor performance.

This words are not defined as to what constitutes incompetence, poor performance etc. A government can use this provision to penalise a DDA.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Opposition mid-benches and back-benches in the future that may speak against any government policies maybe targeted by any government and could use to suspend the provisions but in this case the whole DDA body is suspended and the power is vested alone in the Minister.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in a Parliamentary Democracy that we have adopted, a MP could be targeted and the whole District could suffer.

I can recall when many provincial governments were suspended. Some were suspended for poor management and many Premiers or persons were jailed.

In some cases, they were suspended when a particular premier and Government consisted of a political party that was not in Government at the National level.

Some were suspended for speaking out against National politicians and even against policies and refusing to implement unpopular policies.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we have gone away from that system of abuse. I understand that the provision to suspend provincial governments was deemed unconstitutional in recent Supreme Court case.

Mr Deputy Speaker, why are we introducing this Provision on Suspension again, knowing that is was deemed illegal? Also, the Members of the Opposition may be victimized. In Parliament, we sit at different sides of the House and have differing policies and views on the administration and in our development objectives.

The Government policies may seem right but the DDA under a MP from the Opposition may implement through different mechanisms.

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Mr Deputy Speaker, with the provision in Section 16 and 17 not defined, different approaches in implementation could be seen as “not implementing” the polices and the DDA suspended. Therefore, this provision should not be in there to preserve and promote leadership that must be independent and also to ensure application of democratic principles.

The Ombudsmen Commission, Office of Rural Development and Auditing of the National Department should be engaged and the ORD should set up a Special Auditing Team to engage in 89 districts.

Mr Deputy Speaker, other provisions that may be dangerous to Members of the DDA is to put out agenda in public and to hold DDA meetings in public.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we all know that the National Parliament is the people’s assemble and the people are right here in the gallery.

As I speak here, I am talking about laws and policies. We are not deciding which company or contractor is selected or awarded works or which program should be implemented first.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the same principle applies in the Morobe Tutumang or your own provincial assemblies. The public can access the meetings. These meetings are about debates, laws, policies, implementation and issues of governance.

The LLG Chambers are also open to the public at the LLG level and this can continue to the Ward Development Committee and even the Village Courts.

Following from the above principles, the NEC does not meet in public. It can call persons to obtain briefs and clarifications but those persons cannot be in the meeting when the matter is deliberated upon. The same applies to the Provincial Executive Council and even the Executive Committee at the LLG.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this is the processes and the procedures. Likewise turning to the Government Boards and the State-owned Corporations Boards, their meetings are held in private. We can even turn to the private sector boards that meet in private.

The NEC, PEC, and Council Executive Committee and even Boards deal with contractual issues, consideration of persons for positions, consideration of tenders and priorities and the DDA is in that category.

The DDA is involved in projects, prioritise works program and even determines small contracts. Do we realise the danger of putting all our DDA Members in terms of security and even the costs to consider the public meetings? We all know that Members of Parliament and LLG Presidents are elected leaders with many supporters and even enemies. For example, in Bulolo we have six LLG's and we must prioritise any development work within the six areas and also within the LLG area again between Wards.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I ask leave of the Parliament to have the rest of my speeches incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The rest of the speeches as follows:

Mr Deputy Speaker, if the DDA Meeting is in progress and the public is in the meeting we have to decide on allocating funds for 15 schools and one LLG area has seven schools included for consideration.

If the DDA decides to select on six schools and one LLG is completely missed out.

The public from the LLG with seven submissions are in the meeting and not even one is elected, what do you expect the public and especially the LLG Presidents which had no schools selected to do?.

The President may be punched right there in the meeting by angry parents. Other Council Presidents may be attacked for promoting their own LLG area instead of looking at the whole district.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would challenge the Prime Minister to amend the provision in the *Constitution and PM and NEC Act* and other laws to allow the public into the NEC Meeting and the PEC.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the *DDA Act* is good but have we looked at how decisions are made? Here in Parliament, we talk about policies and budgets and laws. We do not talk about which projects should consider and which contractors or experts to be engaged and the cost of the engagement.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as politicians we all have friends and supporters and enemies. If three of my supporters have indicated interest for a bridge repair, if all three are in the meeting, what do we expect to happen? One does not have the equipment, one does not have the skills and the other is an experienced contractor.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I leave that question for each of you to consider. Some Members already accused of not conducting meetings so with this provision, most MP's and Presidents will have their opponents in the meeting.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I appeal to all of our MP's to look at the issues critically. We must not shoot ourselves in the foot. We cannot report to the Minister who can use it for the advantage of his political objectives. We must ensure the normal provision under the *Public Finance Management Act*, Leadership Code and Criminal Code applies.

Our reports and performance must be monitored by the governance mechanism. If my DDA is not performing or there misappropriation, the Police must investigate and start criminal prosecution.

Mr Deputy Speaker, if a Member of the DDA or all are not performing, the Finance Inspectors, LLG Inspectors and Auditors must ensure the objectives and programs are implemented. If there is abuse, the individual members must be dealt according to Law.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would also ask all of you to look at the *DDA Act* seriously. The intention of the Act is noble but the provisions need to be looked at the ensure were are compliant with and also the services must be delivered fairly.

We must allow the system and processes to take place and ensure the governance structures and laws are empowered to perform their duties without fear and favour.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I must stress that with the public meetings, which is unsound and impracticable, we might be having 40 policemen every time a DDA meeting is held. The cost amount of providing security could be higher than the meeting itself.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we should all look at ensuring this law should be brought back to Parliament and made effective through the various provisions that need to be looked at.

I call upon the Attorney-General and the Minister for Provincial Affairs to bring the law back to this Floor of Parliament.

It must be done immediately before chaos will be caused in the country.

Mr TOBIAS KULANG (Kundiawa-Gembogl) – Mr Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the people of Kundiawa-Gembogl, I wish to congratulate you as the Deputy Speaker of the National Parliament and also happy born day to the Prime Minister, Mr Peter O’Neill.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I wish to raise one issue concerning the education of our children that is the universal education.

I believe, this Government in the beginning had lot of controversies and critics on the issue of the universal education but as time went by it has transformed our ideas and outlook and in manner on how we approach our investment for the future generation. This is through the Tuition Free Education intervention by the Government to give chance to all the children in this country to be educated.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I think for one country to be economically, politically and socially mature is through educating its people, who equip one’s nation to stand firm.

I also wish to congratulate this Government for its intervention and I believe that it will go a long way to prepare and sustain this country to firmly stand amongst the countries of the world to compete in the global development of the world. I must seriously say that this policy is huge policy and it reveals that there are leaders on this Floor of Parliament who are not afraid to make laws and decisions.

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Mr Deputy Speaker, our fathers and forefathers were unfortunate but they have made political history for us to follow in their footsteps. However, we are fortunate to exceed beyond their expectation by expending to the four corners of this country and the world as a

whole. Some of our fathers and the pioneers in this Parliament had laid the foundation but we are in 21st century with many well educated and intelligent Members of Parliament.

At the same time, we have heard commentaries from old economist like Dr White who made some talked about the lost opportunity. In the past we have had an economic windfall or economic boom where we had lot of money in the trust accounts. But, if and when we have some major development within our resources, let it be and whatever is there we can show-for.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in this we may blame the foreign investors for looting our resources and taking them away. Who do we blame? Are we going to blame our people or who? I believe the responsibility here in Parliament.

Some people say, decisions determine our destiny, therefore, our ideas and the kind of decisions we make will design a signal for the type of lives that our further generation will see.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I praise and congratulate this Government led by the Prime Minister, Mr Peter O'Neill. Of course, we have lot of views and opinions about this Government but we must give praise and gratitude to where it is due.

I come from Kundiawa; 5 per cent urban and 95 per cent rural, and I wish to proclaim that for the first time many roads have being maintained. We have also witnessed for the first time that many rural Aid-posts and rural health centers have been built. In Kundiawa, I have witnessed people literally crying over an ambulance like a dead body because they have not seen such physical development and goods and services being delivered to their doorstep. People also saw for the first time that the roads and bridges were being built. When the bridges were broken or roads blocked people found ways to cross the river. With children aged 5 to 7 years think these things were like that when they were born but only you and I know these roads were used by buses before. For the first time also people cried over the cars, bulldozers, excavators et cetera like mourning a death. We were tearful and we cried with the people. If you are not an iron or a tree, you would feel emotional joy of receiving goods and services.

I will not stress too much on the leaders of the past but I believe in today's leaders and what we think of delivering, I believe we have delivered goods and services to the people at the doorstep. Our fathers had laid the foundation for us in this generation in their simple knowledge for us to be educated to continue the political history of which some of us are now turning 50 years old.

Mr Speaker, like the sweetness of a birthday cake, 40 to 50 years of age must be sweet too. We must not waste time and money to fool ourselves but deliver goods and services to our people. We are well educated and not like our fathers. Some of us are now bald which signifies some things that we have come of age and we can manage ourselves, thus, we must deliver development or goods and services to our people to wipe their tears from the hardship they faced for a long time.

Mr Speaker, after having said all these we are making some right and critical decisions that will underpin the growth and the sustainability of this nation and I am proud that I am sitting on this Floor of Parliament as a Member of the National Parliament.

I wish to express my dissatisfaction on the education system and my colleague, the Minister for Education, or the Government mentioned universal education through Tuition Free Education.

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However, Mr Deputy Speaker, the current system of the education regarding the Grade Eight (8) students in this country is seen to be eliminating or pushing students out of the education system after the National Examination. Students are considered to have passed or failed and then in Grade Ten (10) again some students continue to higher education.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in Simbu according to my quick analysis of students attending Grade Ten or Grade 11, there is only 54 per cent. This implies that the student with Grade Ten results will have to compete with the big group to find a living.

In Kundiawa town little children were selling this mining goods on the street but now it's the adults selling the mining goods. As an accountant, I wonder how much money they make and how much they will take home after each day catching buses trying to sell their items. Is this the lifestyle that we are going to give our people?

Mr Deputy Speaker, I believe the Government has done lot of good things with the education system of our country but to finish it off, I suggest we remove Grade 8 and Grade 10 exams and allow all our children to continue. Why not? The Government has spent huge money to the schools and there is lot of money. I am currently building a classroom with push materials in Mount Julius Secondary High School. People say no space but it is a good challenge to move everybody out of the area for the education of our children. I was looking for a school and I went to Australia and did my schooling there.

Mr Speaker, we have to build schools for our children to keep them educated and other students wanted to come to school here. Let them come but we must find ways to keep them here. At the moment it is the right time and our children must not be Grade 8 drop outs. What is this so? It is the system of education that is failing them. Our children are very intelligent and be cannot trash in the rubbish bin.

I think, universal education means that all Grade 8 students or for this matter all students must continue to Grade 12, no matter what, so that, we are satisfied to say that we have given a proper chance to our future generation.

Motion – That the grievances be noted – agreed to.

**PM’S BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY ANNOUNCEMENT –
STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, on behalf of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker’s Office, Parliamentary Services Staff and the Government of the day, the Ministers, Governors, the Opposition and the people of Papua New Guinea, we would like to convey our birthday wishes to the Prime Minister on his 50th Birthday.

MOTION BY LEAVE

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

Leave granted.

**PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BUSINESS –
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER**

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

That Mr James Lagea be appointed Member of Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Private Business.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 1. 00 p.m..