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LEE SIROTE
Acting Principal Parliamentary Reporter

FIFTH DAY

Tuesday 17 February 2015

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FIFTH DAY

Tuesday 17 February 2015

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

There being no quorum present the Deputy Speaker stated that he would resume the chair after the ringing of the bells.

Sitting suspended.

The Speaker, again took the Chair at 10.5 a.m., and invited the Member for Sohe, **Mrs Dellilah Gore** to say Prayers:

‘Heavenly Father, we humbly bow our heads before your throne of grace as leaders of this great nation. Father, we represent your people and we ask you dear Lord to lead us today in our decision making that can bring benefits to our people.

Thank you Father for your many wonderful blessings and wonderful promises that you have given us, and this morning we want to thank you Lord for your only begotten son that dwell on this earth and has led and taught us many things, Amen.’

MEMBER FOR GULF PROVINCIAL AND GOVERNOR (Mr HAVILA KAVO) – STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, the Chair will make a short statement clarifying the position on the matter concerning the honourable Governor of the Gulf Province.

I have obtained an advice and am of the opinion that the Gulf Governor has invoked his right to appeal against the conviction and sentence under *Section 103(3)* and *103(4)* of the *Constitution* and was granted leave by the Supreme Court to appeal on 23 December 2014.

Subsequently, *Section 103(4) (b)* of the *Constitution* suspends the operation of *Section 103(3)*, regarding disqualification as a Member of the Parliament, until such time as the appeal is determined.

The Chair is satisfied that the Governor of Gulf Provincial, Honourable Havila Kavo, is still a Member of Parliament and entitled to perform his official role and functions in the Chamber and the Parliament precincts.

The Chair is also satisfied that this matter is sub-judice and before the courts and rules that no more statements and questions will be allowed on this matter while the matter is pending before the Court, Thank you.

QUESTIONS

Mr DAVID ARORE – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to direct my question to the Minister for Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology.

Mr Speaker, in 2013, as the then Minister responsible for Higher Education, we took initiatives as part of the direct intervention to alleviate the high level of Grade 12 leavers out there on the street and to accommodate them into our institutions in the country.

To date, we only have about 5000 spaces available for our whole tertiary intakes in the country per year.

In 2014, we allocated K5 million for the establishment of the National Open University, to be able to absorb the 18 000 plus Grade 12 leavers from our Secondary Institutions every year.

My question is:-

What has become of that particular initiative to open a National Open University for the country to be able to absorb the 18 000 plus Grade 12 leavers in the country as a direct Government intervention in our Tertiary Institutions?

Mr MALAKAI TABAR – Mr Speaker, I thank the honourable Member for Ijivitari for the question.

Yes, the Open University concept has been in the books, and I personally had a look at the old concept and had discussion with the Vice-chancellors, University of Technology, UPNG and UOG. In fact, I disagreed on the concept and I want all universities in PNG to be independent.

02/05

I was in a meeting with these institutions and they argued about their independence and their autonomy. When I read about the concept of Open University I told them that they have effectively sold themselves into this concept. There is going to be another institution called the Open University looking after the material and contents of your program on your behalf, which does not reflect independence and autonomy.

Why don't we have an open centre in all 89 districts? We and the telecommunication providers are also basically waiting for a ICT under-writer. Digicel and Huawei, the commercial companies, are waiting on Telikom to stand up and effectively give us the responsibility to under-write the ITC program for the Open University.

We are starting in the New Guinea Islands region because, the Minister for Communication is in that region and we would like to make sure that we can trial a program that will effectively see some of our students registered in Goroka, Port Moresby or Kavieng do an applied physics program from Lae's University of Technology.

I have made an appointment with the Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Technology and we will meet this week to discuss further on this issue and bring the matter to Cabinet. We would like to revisit the old concept and we believe it will cost more than K5 million; so we will be coming to you through the Provincial Governments.

Each Member of Parliament from the districts should be part of the program that will bring accessibility and high quality learning programs to our students.

Mr WERA MORI –I would like to direct my series of questions to the Minister for Works. My questions will be made in reference to an article in The Post- Courier newspaper, page 8; regarding a statement made by the Minister.

It said that there were claims of K67 million from the Chimbu Province and I would like to clarify here that compensation claims is not an industry in Chimbu. To refer the Minister for Works to an earlier exercise of a claim amounting to K69 million, which was adequately shelved after an exercise in 2009-2012, from the; K63 million after its removal only K6.4 million was paid.

Having said that, my questions are as follows;

- (1) Is it true that there is a new claim of K67 million as reported?
- (2) If that is so, what are the claims for?

(3) What has the department of Works done with the activities that were conducted in Chimbu where excessive claims were removed and only K6.4 million was paid?

(4) If those claims were removed, why are they still being entertained by the department of works; can they explain to the people of Chimbu and the country as to why the department is trying to legitimize such claims of which many are fraudulent in nature?

Mr FRANCIS AWESA – I thank the Honourable Member for his questions.

Firstly, I want to say that you are privy to much of the payments that took place in Chimbu province. And I understand that in relation to these payments; the former secretary for works has been charged by the police for fraudulent payments to landowners.

Many of the people in that province who miss out on the payments are the ones who call themselves the landowners association.

03/05

I confirmed that there is a case against the Works Department. In fact, a claim of K67 million is before the National Court and some more are coming through.

So sometimes when Members ask questions some of them already know of what has have taken place.

Mr Wera Mori - Point of Order! Mr Speaker, I am aware and I am the expert in the exercise that verified those claims and that accurately removed false claims should not be entertained.

I cannot afford to stand here in this Parliament as the Member of Chuave and allow the name of Chimbu to be dragged into the mud!

We may not have many resources, to compete with other provinces

Mr SPEAKER – What is your point of order?

Mr Wera Mori – Mr Speaker, I would like to remind the Minister to basically answer the questions. He cannot be defensive and evade the questions.

Mr FRANCIS AWESA – Honourable Member, I am trying to answer your question. I am telling you and the people of Papua New Guinea that you were responsible for the

payments that took place in that province, but most of the landowners were not paid by your consultancy firm.

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Minister, you need to address the Chair. You may continue with your questions.

Mr FRANCIS AWESA – Mr Speaker, I am confirming that, there is a claim for K67 million against the State, it has already gone to Court and K54 million was paid to Landowners.

Because of the precedence already set by this huge payment, we are now bombarded with so many claims and it has gone out of control. The compensation issue is becoming a very big industry; it has been promoted by a lot of people and so-called consultancies and bureaucrats.

As far as I know, we have not made any single payments in the last two years. I want to assure Parliament we have not made any payments yet in that province, we are still trying to see where we have gone wrong.

There will be an investigation to verify all these claims but it is an industry that is getting out of hand. People are coming with all sorts of compensation claims and because of the manner in which payments were done in this province, we have a situation a landowner associations is claiming K67 million and it is a big issue

Mr SPEAKER - There are three parts of the question Minister, so go straight to them and answer the questions

Mr FRANCIS AWESA – Mr Speaker, having said that, I will give a detailed answer to the Honourable Member and the Vice Minister in this session of Parliament about the payment that was done by his own company and the Works Department before my time. So, I will give that information this week. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Supplementary Question

Mr KERENGA KUA - Thank you, Mr Speaker. I think the Chimbu section of the Highway Rehabilitation is badly affected by this compensation issue. I feel we have sufficient body of legislation there which needs to be enforced and we need to move on.

04/05

As far as I am concerned a lot of these claims are fraudulent. As a government we need to stand up, be decisive about it and take a tough stand on it. I think that is what the Member for Chuave is saying. He is encouraging the Minister to be firm, decisive, and courageous and enforce the stock of laws that he has at his disposal.

Is the Minister able to do that?

Mr FRANCIS AWESA – I think he has already answered the supplementary question himself. We need all the Members of Parliament to address this issue. It is not the responsibility of the Works Minister to go out there and talk about compensation. I cannot be in Simbu Province nor Western Highlands at the same time. I cannot be everywhere.

However, I want to thank the Minister for Police for taking a bold stand in Henganofi during the landslide compensation talks. The Minister was present. What about the rest of the Members of Parliament? You know, I cannot be there all the time and, therefore, I urge everybody to assist with the issue.

Mr WILLIAM TONGAMP – Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister for Police. In today's, *Post-Courier* page 2 a road section at Kudjip and Minj was blocked off on Saturday. This incident occurred when five police officers bashed up a youth to death at the police station and later dumped his body at the Mt Hagen Hospital Morgue.

The road has been blocked off since Saturday, so can the Minister for Police advise the Assistant Commissioner Highlands Region to detain the five police officers behind bars today. I also urge the Minister to set up an independent investigation team to investigate the matter.

Mr ROBERT ATIYABA – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the Governor of Jiwaka for his questions. In response to his questions I will need to obtain detailed information and advise him accordingly as I am only informed through the papers. As I mentioned this morning, I have not received any documents from Jiwaka regarding the same. But I will talk to the Minister as soon I receive these documents.

Mr NIXON MANGAPE – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I direct my question to the Minister for Mining and I urge the Prime Minister and the Minister for Environment to take note.

My questions are:

(1) Is the Minister aware that Barrack Niugini Gold wants to sell 95 per cent of its shares to Asian Companies?

(2) If it is true, what will happen to the environmental damage incurred by Barrack Gold over the last 25 years?

(3) Has the Minister any plans for the landowners affected by the mine in the last 25 years.

Mr BYRON CHAN – Thank you, Mr Speaker and Honourable Member. I am aware of some visitors from Asia who toured the mine site. These people had an audience with some of the leaders and the Provincial Government members including various departments.

05/05

In the week or two that they were here I did not personally get to meet those people but as for us and our authority whatever business is held by the current operator is its own issue. We don't get involved in company operations but we regulate the mine and the operations at the mine site.

If Barrick has plans to sell its shares to that Asian company it is up to them. I am aware of the intention to sell but I am not sure how much will be sold. I have heard that they are in discussions about this. They have already met the provincial government and other relevant stakeholders in the ongoing discussions. But I cannot interfere with that discussion; it is entirely up to the company.

On environmental damage, honourable Member, whoever holds the licence to operate at the mine site is responsible for everything of the past, the present and the future. So,

whoever takes over mining at that site also takes liability for damages caused in the past, right now and in the future. That is by obligation of that sale.

In regard to the SML landowners' relocation, this plan is still ongoing and discussions are still going on for the availability of land. Currently, Barrick has allocated some funds and we are all looking forward to the relocation of our landowners from their current location. So the plan for relocation is in place and we are now in the process of looking for ways, especially in the area of land titles to relocate our landowners. Even then, whatever company takes over, the responsibility to relocate the affected landowners reverts to it also.

Mr GISUWAT SINIWAN – Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister for Public Enterprises and State Investments.

Lae is the second largest city having one quarter of its population located in the Nawae Electorate. Settlement areas such as Kamkumung, Backroad, Busu, Bumayong, Boinamo Pit, Kamkumung Village and others do not have proper water supply system within the city. It is the 21st Century but my people in the mentioned areas do not have access to water supply.

(1) Are there any plans for my people in the Nawae Electorate in the Lae Settlements?

(2) If there are plans, when will water be provided to these areas in the electorate where people are now drinking from rusty 200 litres drum even in the 21st Century?

I ask the Minister to enlighten the people in the Nawae Electorate of Lae City.

Mr BEN MICAH – Thank you, Member for Nawae, for your good questions.

Mr Speaker, water is a very essential human need. In fact, it is a basic need alongside housing, clothing and food.

It is plentiful in our country; it is available from many rivers, streams, spring water and even rainwater which falls nearly every day in our tropical country.

Unfortunately, this plentiful water is not available in terms of cleanliness, purity and hygiene to our people.

06/05

A lot of sicknesses like dysentery can afflict our people because most do not have access to clean and safe water supply.

Mr Speaker, it is a big challenge for Eda Ranu in Port Moresby and it is also a big challenge for Water PNG as it takes care of water treatment and distribution mostly in our major town centers throughout the country.

We are trying to make sure that we provide water to most of our urban centers where these two companies operate. Much like many of the other utilities like telecommunication and power; they were set up in the colonial period basically to serve the urban centers where the government and businesses operated from.

Nevertheless, more than 90 per cent of Papua New Guineans still do not have access to clean and safe water, including the people who have been mentioned who are sitting on the periphery of our second largest city, Lae. Many people there do not have access to clean and safe water –

Ms Loujaya Kouza – Point of Order! The Minister needs to answer the questions. What are his plans to address the water situation in the Nawae settlements in the Lae district?

Thank you, Mr Speaker, time is wasting.

Mr BEN MICAH – I have already said that water is a very important issue. Just give me another two minutes to further explain. I must thoroughly explain here the factors regarding this issue with background information. Then I will come to the point of how the government is trying to address this issue nationwide to ensure that everyone in all our communities have access to water with our short, medium and long term goals –

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Minister, you can say all that later on in a form of a statement, meanwhile, you need to answer the question.

Mr BEN MICAH – Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I take have note of the point of order.

Yes, I have gotten many applications regarding the issue concerning water and also, I have received correspondence from the Member for Nawae. Now, I have sent all these applications down to Water PNG to see if we could do the projects in the Member's electorate which sits on a questionable shared boundary with Lae City district. This is to provide water supply to areas like Bumayong, Second Seven and some areas around the Busu

area that sitting just outside of Lae. The people there are accessing other services from the city but not the water, Mr Speaker.

Therefore, I would like the Member to put a little funding from her DSIP. There is already an instruction that I have given to Water PNG with regards to this particular requirement for Water PNG to work together with this district to make sure that those communities on the periphery of Lae get water.

Mr SASINDRAN MUTHUVEL – Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, as you are aware, West New Britain is predominantly an agriculture province and we are the number one province in terms of contributing revenue especially from log exports.

Mr Speaker, I would like to direct this question to the Minister for Environment and Conservation.

Mr Minister, the logging industry is highly prevalent in West New Britain where we have one of the largest operations in the country. Regardless of that, there is no effective monitoring in terms of damages done to the natural environment. If you can recall, last year there was a report in the newspapers capturing a section of coral reefs in the South Coast.

Mr Speaker, as a provincial government we do not have enough capacity in terms of monitoring all the logging operations in remote locations.

Therefore, are there any plans from his department to monitor the damages done to the natural environment due to the logging industry in all the provinces?

Mr JOHN PUNDARI – Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I would like to thank the Honourable Governor of West New Britain for his question.

Mr Speaker, therefore let me say this, yes, there is a lot of environmental impacts as a result of logging operations in the country.

07/05

Compliance of logging industries in the country by my department has been minimal over the years. But Mr Speaker, as of last year we created an aggressive division to monitor environmental compliances and logging industry and we will give priority to his province this year.

Mr TOBIAS KULANG – Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister for Higher Education since his counterpart the Minister for education is not present.

Mr Speaker, last Friday I raised some issues during the Grievances Debate on the issues of our children's education. A news article published on the front page of *Post Courier* confirmed that 600 000 students were not in school. I raised concerns that it would be better to let all our students go through grade 12 and it is now evident as published by the papers. These children have no hope in this country. It was also published in the media that Professor David Kavanamur, Acting Secretary from Department of Higher Education Research Science and Technology stated that only two per cent of the Grade twelve students will enter tertiary institutions while a staggering 15 000 every year have no hope. Does the Minister for Higher Education Research Science and Technology have plans in place to create capacity in the current institutions such as Universities? It is shameful to be living in the twentieth century, in a region where we can access technology and yet have only two per cent of our grade twelve students make it to tertiary institutions.

Does the Minister have any plans in place to increase that percentage or has he started anything to improve the conditions of that percentage?

According to Professor David Kavanamur, if we are to reach that middle income nation, we need to at least educate 15 per cent of our population. That means two per cent is way off and we have a lot of work to do. It needs an emergency approach such as the approach taken by the Minister for Public Enterprise towards PNG Power. Yes, there may have been different opinions on the approach he took but he's actions has improved the cash flow of that firm. So the issues confronted in education sector is at an emergency level right now and we need some drastic interventions.

Mr MALAKAI TABAR – I thank the Honourable Member for Kundiawa-Gembogl. Yes, there are some big plans in place but I want to say that I'm very sorry about the two per cent. Between 2007 to 2014, there was an increase in secondary schools from 82 to 129 and last year there were 17,460 grade twelve students that sat for the exams and this year 19,000. Last year only 4,600 students were accepted into tertiary institutions and this year 5,628 so, it's not two per cent but 28.38 per cent and the media were advised correctly regarding these figures but I don't know why they did not correct these figures? The media keeps on publishing misleading information. In 2007, 10 000 students sat for the grade 12

exams and last year 19,828 sat for the exams. We increased the scholarships from 4 614 by 1114, an increase of 21.97 per cent

08/05

There were only 26 higher institutions since 2007, but now it has increased to 30 in 2014.

We have got some big plans but unfortunately it will be delayed because of the South Pacific Games which will commence in June.

But I thank the O'Neill-Dion Government for allocating K62.5 million in the 2015 National Budget for higher learning institutions, but it is not enough to cater for the existing six universities including PAU and Divine Word University. We seriously need more funds but unfortunately we got swimming pools and netball courts to look after.

I have advised all the Vice-chancellors of all universities to accept whatever that is allocated and we are working hard to correct and increase our accessibility. But as for all the colleges such as nursing, teachers and business the Government has allocated additional K120 million in the 2015 National Budget. We have distributed these funds to all the colleges two weeks ago. Just last week we were in Wabag, Sopas Nursing College and we will visit other schools as well later on.

We are thinking of building one more university, which is Western Pacific University and I thank the Government for approving this submission. But the issue now is with the landowners as you all know most of the land in PNG are owned by people, therefore you have to get approval from the landowners first before you do anything. But we are working on it.

Going back to the Member for Ijivitari's question about open universities in all districts, yes, we would like to make sure that all 89 Districts have an Open University Centre that will be hooked up with latest technologies where it can access other institutions within or outside of the country. It will also keep all the library books in PNG and also a laptop, desktops, television screens where you can talk to your lecturer at Unitech or James Cook University in Townsville from Losuia in Milne Bay or from Teleformin in the Sandaun Province.

So these are some of the plans which are in place and I just need support from all the Governors to allocate some PSIP and DSIP funds.

On the issue of K600 000 that was quoted this morning on the front page of the daily newspaper, that's a very alarming figure and thank you Minister for Finance that.

All of us in this Parliament need to check our respective districts because on Sunday I had a meeting with all my Presidents back in my electorates to find out how many school-age children still at home and not attending any school at all. I will go back again next week and find out and make sure all the children go to school. The point is that we leaders fail most in those areas and we are not really doing our part back in our respective electorates. These street kids roaming the streets of Port Moresby belong to a family and this family comes from a district within PNG.

With that I want to thank the O'Neill-Dion Government for appointing me to take charge of this Department. We are taking stock of some of the major issues affecting higher learning institutions in this country and we are working hard on it to fix it, especially the responsibility of opening up new institutions. We should visit Oro Province and Sepik area in the next few months and do what we have to do.

Mr SPEAKER – He answered all the questions, honourable Member you cannot ask a second time but you can reserve it for tomorrow.

Mr WESLEY NUKUNDI – Thank you Mr Speaker for recognising the people of Dei. I want to direct my question to the Minister for Agriculture and Livestock.

09/05

Mr Speaker, can I make a statement before I ask my question?

Mr SPEAKER – Please, keep your statement brief as this is Question Time and you should not be making any statements.

Mr WESLEY NUKUNDJ – A lot of people of this country especially from the highlands region and maybe some from the coastal areas are growing a lot of coffee. Our livelihood depends on this crop. For the past years, this industry has been neglected by the Government. A lot of the coffee plantations in the highlands are overgrown with bushes and factories have shutdown.

Lately, the Department of Agriculture and Livestock together and the Coffee Industry are issuing coffee exporting licenses but we are not producing any fruits. The plantations are bushy, so what is the purpose of these licenses?

Can the Minister tell the coffee growers of this nation what plans the Government has in place to assist them?

Mr TOMMY TOMSCOLL – I thank the Member for Dei for his question in relation to the coffee growers' plight nationwide. This is a major agricultural industry in the country, and a lot of our peoples' livelihood depends on it.

The history of coffee goes way back; it did not begin in 2012. The crop began to decline over the last 30 years, as a result of the following contributing factors: -

1. A lack of Governments' consistent support.
2. The industry collapsed as a result of the PANGA Coffee affair
3. A lot of these coffee trees are aged between 30-70 years

They have gone past their peak time to produce the yield required. One hectare of coffee usually produced up to a maximum of five tonnes. Today a lot of these hectares only produce 600 kilograms. So the real issue is; to find out what the problem is?

Clearly the problem is that we have not been replanting to replace the old trees. If we do not replant a dying coffee tree, what results are we expecting?

Mr Speaker, the industry or the plantation cannot improve or expand if we do not replant. The Governments' policy paper on coffee will be presented in the next Sitting of Parliament. I would like to say that the Government support must continue.

This Government has allocated K7 million for the coffee industry and the concentration is for districts to start nursery programs to begin replanting.

10/05

At the same time too, Mr Speaker, for the last 30 years, there has been a ban on issuing of new coffee export license. As a result, there are not many entries therefore, not much investment is coming in. No company or investor is willing to come and put his money if they cannot be granted an export license.

If I want to plant coffee and invest my money into it then why should I domestically sell it to you to export? If there is a ban in place there is no growth in terms of new entries into the market.

Mr Speaker, in the name of promoting coffee in the last 20 years, we decided that Papua New Guineans must grow their coffee, that we should lift the level of export.

We told the Papua New Guineans, once you own a coffee license you must be able to export 100 000 bags annually. Which Papua New Guineans can do that? None of them can do that. Under the O'Neill-Dion Government, we have reduced this by 3 000 bags so that every Papua New Guinean can export and that is the very reason we have also allowed for export licenses to be given to districts and to corporates.

Mr Speaker, we encourage the people of Obura, and under the new arrangement for the first time they sent wide range of coffee for K9.50 per kilo.

The Coffee Industry is beginning to change, and more money is required in the districts and so when your districts became a partner to us we also expect that you will put your DSIP. We cannot just talk and expect CIC to fund us because CIC is funded through the same Budget that you are getting DSIP from and when your DSIP, and programs increase, the money going to the Coffee Industry will reduce.

The issues are many but I will give an explanation in the policy statement in the next meeting. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Supplementary Questions

Mr WERA MORI - Thank you, Mr Speaker. I raised my views in parliament last week Friday during Grievance Debate but the Minister was not present so I would like to ask these two questions.

My questions are very specific:

(1) When are we going to restore the price stability fund to support the prices?

(2) When will the PNG Coffee Industry Board have its own board so that they can run their own affairs?

Mr ASSIK TOMMY TOMSCOLL – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the Member for his questions. The issue of Price Stabilization Fund or Introduction of Price Stabilization Fund is an issue that we have to study well and decide whether we want to re-introduce it.

Yes, in the past there was this Price Stabilization Fund but again this Price Stabilisation was not able to work because the market structure was very different.

The market structure of coffee is the international market structure I am talking about. At that time it was managed by ICCO and under the ICCO they issued quotas. So when you held a Price Stabilization Fund it was able to support it and it worked, the mechanism was there for it to work.

Under the current arrangement there is no such thing as the Quota System, the market has become very fragmented and that is also why the price is volatile on the market. So, it is an issue that we need to study, the SER have looked into it and have identified that this one issue we have to further look into.

On the issue of the PNG Coffee Board, once we introduce the recommendations from the SER, we would want to set up the Agriculture sector like the way IPBC is set up, so that all the subsidiary boards are reporting to one board.

11/05

Once the Bill is tabled in Parliament then we will appoint its Board of Directors after that because there might be changes where we will be forced to re-appoint the Board again. Therefore, we are currently waiting for the Bill to be passed in Parliament first.

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.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS – REARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS

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

That so much of the *Standing Orders* be suspended as would prevent Notice No. 195 of Government Business this day being called on forthwith.

ORGANIC LAW ON SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUND BILL 2012

First Reading

Bill presented by **Mr Peter O'Neill** and read a first time.

Mr SPEAKER– Honourable Members, in accordance with *Standing Orders 222A* and the practice of Parliament, the Proposed Law now stands referred to the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Laws and *Acts* and Subordinate Legislation.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA DEFENCE FORCE – ANNUAL REPORT, 2011 – PAPER AND STATEMENT – MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Dr FABIAN POK (North Wahgi – Minister for Defence) – I present the following paper pursuant to statute:

Papua New Guinea Defence Act 1974 – Defence Annual Report, 2011.

I ask leave of the Parliament to make a statement in connection with the paper.

Leave granted.

Mr Speaker, there is no greater responsibility for a government than the defence, of the nation, its interests and people. The principal institution vested with the primary responsibility of meeting that obligation is the PNG Defence Force.

Mr Speaker, as the Minister responsible for matters of National Defence, I hereby seek leave to present this annual report in view of the important programs and initiatives undertaken within Defence by the than Somare-Temu Government. It is imperative that this report is presented to the honourable Members of the Parliament.

Mr Speaker, the people of Papua New Guinea as the principal stakeholders of the PNG Defence Force, need to be informed of the operational control and superintendence of the Force through this National Parliament.

The 2011 Annual report presents a snapshot of the operations and administrative activities of the Defence organisation for that particular year.

Mr Speaker, at this juncture, I wish to inform this Parliament that the 2012 and 2013 Annual Reports will be ready for presentation to this Parliament in the next Meeting of Parliament. These reports are basically annually statements updating our people through this Parliament of the Government's management of Strategic Defence Policy, Force Operations, financial expenditure and control, accountability, personnel management and general administration of the Force.

Mr Speaker, the PNGDF is mandated by *Section 202* of the *Constitution* to deliver four core tasks:

- (1) Defend Papua New Guinea;
- (2) Participate in international obligations;
- (3) Contribute to nation building; and
- (4) Provide aid to civil power in times of civil disaster, callout and national emergencies.

Mr Speaker, the defence and security of a country is the primary responsibility of its government. Defence was appropriated K167 275 200 in 2011 to deliver on these core tasks, pay and sustain its people and attend to general administration.

Expenditures at the end of the year indicated an over expenditure by K10 417 800 or six per cent. This increase is mainly in personnel emoluments due to new recruits on payroll, CPI and pay adjustments for service personnel.

12/05

Mr Speaker, during this period Defence continued to strengthen relationships with bilateral partners including Australia, New Zealand, the Republic of Indonesia, United States and the People's Republic of China and other friendly countries.

Mr Speaker, the Defence Force has a robust relationship with Australia under the auspices of the Defence Cooperation Programme. Through the Enhanced Defence Cooperation Programme, Australian Defence Force Inline officers were posted into line

positions within the Defence Force to assist in critical areas that the PNGDF lacked expertise in.

Relations were further strengthened with our Defence Force Engineering Team taking part in a six-week Civic Action exercise with their Australian Defence counterparts in regional Australia.

Mr Speaker, both the Papua New Guinea Defence Force and the Australian Defence Force participated in the exercise Olgeta Warrior whose main focus is to enhance interoperability between the two forces. The exercise enabled elements from Infantry, Engineering, Air and Supply and logistics to exercise together in the area of training.

Thirty one members of the PNG Defence Force undertook training in various military and civilian training institutions in Australia.

Mr Speaker, in 2011 the PNG Defence Force conducted major operational activities including land border security operations, marine surveillance, regional and international support and military exercises.

Mr Speaker, in 2011 the PNG Defence Force conducted four land border patrols covering both the northern and southern areas and involved the First Royal Pacific Islands Regiment in Taurama Barracks and the Second Royal Pacific Island Regiment in Moem Barracks.

Each of the this patrol involved a company size force element and on each patrol each of the companies conducted close area patrols lasting seven days and long range patrols lasting 21 days.

Mr Speaker, the Papua New Guinea Defence Force Marine Element patrol boats conducted 11 10-day sea patrols totaling 110 days. The patrols were conducted in partnership with the National Fisheries Authorities and the Forum Fisheries Authority based in Honiara.

Mr Speaker, the patrols resulted in the squadrons intercepting several illegal fishing vessels which resulted in court fines of over K2 million for the State.

The Element was able to conduct operations regardless of funding, manpower constraints and out of serviceability of half of its ships.

Mr Speaker, the Defence Element was able to conduct rotary air operations due to the un-serviceability of its four helicopters. However limited fixed-wing operations were undertaken in support of border and maritime patrols as well as transport support to both the military and civil agencies.

Mr Speaker, the Papua New Guinea Defence Force continues to contribute to regional and international security operations in 2011. Under the Regional Assistance Mission, (RAMSI) two PNG Defence Force, platoon-sized contingent Kumul 11 and Kumul 12 were deployed to the Solomon Islands.

Mr Speaker, I am pleased to inform Parliament that in November 2011 PNG commenced international peace keeping operations by providing four middle ranking officers for United Nations Mission Observers in Sudan and South Sudan. This was made possible by the Parliament's passing of the *International Obligations Act 2010*.

The deployment of Papua New Guinea's first UMNO is an important milestone made possible with the assistance of our regional friends, New Zealand and Australia.

Mr Speaker, to enable the Papua New Guinea Defence Force to operate alongside regional military forces to promote peace and stability in the region it is important that it engages in regular military exercises.

In 2011, the Papua New Guinea Defence Force participated in six in-country and within the region exercises. The main focus of these exercises were to strengthen the interoperability between the different regional forces in the event of disaster relief and humanitarian, assistance, security, civil action and logistics and supply operations. Most of the exercises were held between the Papua New Guinea Defence Force and the Australian Defence Force.

Mr Speaker, training is the cornerstone of combat readiness and is integral to developing a professional soldier. The Papua New Guinea Defence Force conducts specific military training at both the Goldie River Training Depot and the Defence Force Academy in Lae.

13/05

In 2001 27 courses were conducted successfully with funding assistance from the Australian Defense Cooperation Programme. Several of the courses were scrapped due to insufficient funds. To complement military training, civil training and courses were offered to 71 personnel at a cost of K250 000 under a programme known as Civil Education Scheme.

Mr Speaker, through defense bilateral arrangements, the PNGDF was able to train 85 personnel in various skills in Australia, New Zealand, USA, India, China, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Mr Speaker, I am pleased to inform this Parliament that eight PNGDF members under took pilot training fully sponsored by Defense at a cost of K4 million, and two of the

participants were females. This is a significant investment for the PNGDF and the country as the PNGDF does not attract any external funding support from partners in the region for pilot training and the operations of the Air Transport Wing.

Mr Speaker, operations and training are core activities of the PNGDF and their effectiveness is dependent on strong reliable support services from the PNGDF's logistics branch and the Department of Defense.

In 2011, both organisations could not carry out procurement and supply of uniforms, field equipment weapons, ammunition, combat rations, communications equipment and vehicles to support both these activities due to insufficient levels of funding by government. Facilities and base infrastructure could not be maintained for the same reason.

Mr Speaker, no organisation is complete without its people. In 2011, the PNGDF had manpower strength of just over 2000. Another 300 new intakes were enlisted both officers and other ranks, including significantly larger numbers of women.

During this year the ALESCO Payroll System was introduced to the PNGDF enabling the personnel branch to better account, manage pay and other related human resource issues. A substantial pay rise was awarded to members of the PNGDF following a salary and allowances review in 2010 with a further 7.5 percent increase for CPI.

In the area of health, services remain insufficient due to consistent lack of funding for drugs and maintenance of medical facilities. However, improvements to the Taurama Military Hospital have been made possible through financial and technical support from the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA).

Mr Speaker, this Report, though preceded by the 2013 Defense White Paper, which was launched on 9th December 2013, is a prelude to outlining the government's desire to reinvigorate the PNG Defense Force as an important institution to enhance national security, social cohesion and national development. It provides the context in which the government will continue to develop and direct our defense assets and resources to meet our security challenges into the future.

Mr Speaker, as a nation we face many security challenges into our future as we strive to evolve into a progressive and prosperous nation and take our place in this world. These challenges are multi-dimensional and pervasive. As a government, we will develop and implement response capabilities within Defense and the entire spectrum of our national security machinery across government for a coordinated effort to respond to these challenges

within our country, be it border protection, fisheries and maritime surveillance, vital access and resource protection, support to police operations, call outs and et cetera.

Mr Speaker, no other national institution is tasked by government to be able to do a wide range of tasks or to deploy at a short notice on missions that are not military in nature.

Mr Speaker, our government has directed that the manpower ceiling of the force to increased to 10 000 over the next five years from the baseline manning establishment of 2 000 in 2006. This is being pursued in earnest with an ongoing intense recruitment programme.

14/05

Over the next five years other force priorities and programs captured in the Defence White Paper will be incrementally implemented this will require major injection of funds and streamlined Force administration to restore the dilapidated state of Defence assets and facilities, improve capability flexibility, institute financial planning management and audit systems and restore morale and discipline amongst the men and women of PNG defence Force.

Mr Speaker, these are differences that have continued to impair the overall effectiveness of the Forces current and prospective operational tasks. However, considerable investments have been made by our Government in the PNG Defence Force. We need to maintain that momentum with determination so that the Force is able to achieve an acceptable level of excellence in the conduct of defence and national security operations in PNG within our immediate region.

Mr Speaker, the consistent conduct of our Kumul Force contingents to the RAMSI effort in the Solomon Islands since July 2003 and the conduct of our recently deployed United Nations Mission Observers in Darfur and South Sudan have been exemplary. If nurtured well, the PNG Defence Force can be a great Institution of pride for our country.

Mr Speaker, I present to you and the parliament the Annual Report of 2011 for defence.

Thankyou Mr Speaker.

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

That Parliament take note of the paper and debate be made an order of the day for a subsequent sitting.

Debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12 noon to 2p.m.

15/05

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.

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS –
REARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS**

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

That so much of *the Standing Orders* be suspended as would prevent debate on the Defence Annual Report 2011 be resumed.

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA DEFENCE FORCE – ANNUAL
REPORT, 2011 – PAPER AND STATEMENT –
MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Debate resumed from today 18 February 2015 (see page ...).

Mr JIM KAS (Madang) – Thank you Mr Speaker, I would like to commend the Minister for Defence for presenting the Defence Annual Report 2011 to this honourable Parliament.

Let me say that Defence Force is the pride of this nation. When they are in uniform and flying the PNG flag using the elements of the Defence Force; the land troops, marine time element and the air element, they are the pride of PNG.

I think the citizens in Port Moresby take the Defence Force for granted but if you get uniform soldiers out there in the rural areas of PNG, I tell you it brings the sense of pride to Papua New Guineans, therefore, I commend the Commander and all the Officers in charge of different ranks for upholding the Constitution and flag of PNG.

Having said that, we have a huge land mass, big marine time territory and we have a lot of resources within those territories which we rely on for our revenue for this country. The Defence Force maritime element should be supported widely with a lot of finance because we are losing a lot of revenue out there in the open seas. Therefore we need to support the Defence Force and the National Fisheries Authority financially so that they can monitor the maritime areas that we have. Because that is one of the renewable resources that we have to protect at all times. For the maritime elements we should look at supporting it through very specific allocations or if not through our bilateral Defence corporation arrangement with Australia and New Zealand. We should ask them to build a surveillance base somewhere in the Islands of PNG so that we can use that.

For the land element a lot more needs to be done to be supported and also for the air as well.

With the Air, there is a private company called Early Solutions and it is owned and operated by ex-pilot of PNG Defence Force and he is well-trained and experienced.

16/05

The Managing Directors are all Papua New Guineans and that is the kind of quality that the Defence Force can produce and I commend the Minister and the Force for training the eleven Papua New Guineans inclusive of the two females that were mentioned in the report.

I think the 'A' element has to be supported and on the much brighter side to the issue of the retrenched soldiers. Instead of the on-going Court battle, I have suggestion that, this group of soldiers have given quality service by wearing the uniform of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force.

So why don't we stop this nonsense about going to court and listening to their grievances and think about settling them out properly. You cannot replace the service they gave to the country by inciting Court Proceedings and making them look so ordinary and low by not listening to them.

Let us properly compensate the ex-servicemen as they deserve it. The Defence Force has to be commended for recruiting females into the force.

We are showing the world that we are matured and we are now going against our cultural barriers to accepting women into a male dominated field. I would like to commend the Governments responsible pushing for the issue on the recruitment of female soldiers.

We have bilateral relations with our international partners like Indonesia, Australia and other Pacific island countries. In addition to this I would like to say that we should be very careful with certain issues when dealing with our neighbours. For example, the West Papua issue.

Whilst Indonesia remains our good neighbour we should tread carefully when raising such issues. And I would like to commend the Defence Minister for bringing this paper to Parliament.

Ms LOUJAYA TONI (Lae) – Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I join the debate, I would like to commend the Honourable Minister for Defence for bringing this report to Parliament.

We have come in the development of our nation to a time when we will be celebrating the country's fortieth year of Independence.

And one of the paramount landmarks of nationhood is the strength of our disciplined forces. Whilst funding constraints have been experienced, we must commend the good Minister for the way in which we have gone from downsizing to realising the importance now of beefing up the disciplinary forces, especially the Defence Force at such a time as this.

17/05

It goes on to say that whilst we at the national level allocate funding for the Defence Force and leave it as a national responsibility, now that funding is re-directed out of Waigani back to the districts, we need to look at taking some responsibility at the district Level.

Mr Speaker, whereby we assist with the Defence, Police and CS in the areas where accommodation is concerned and leave the Defence Force at the national level.

Having said that, I would like to use Lae as an example of strategic infrastructure, especially the Lae Tidal Basin Project, which is a sizable piece of infrastructure in the Southern Hemisphere that will to some extent, need increased personnel from Defence, Police and CS where surveillance is concerned.

I would also like to consider providing some allowance at the provincial and district

level to be able to contribute towards training at the Defence Academy in Lae to take care of that infrastructure.

The same can be said for border surveillance where Bougainville, Manus and West Sepik are concerned.

How can we as local members and governors in partnership towards the existing White paper that has been here since last year. Again I commend the Defence Minister for that White paper but how we can now begin to think in terms of macro and then micros, how we can beef up our defence training within the provinces and the districts, I leave that for your consideration.

My particular area of interest is where retrenched soldiers are concerned and the pensions for Defence or disciplinary force widows are concerned.

I pay particular interest in this area because I had the opportunity whilst in Israel, I go to Israel every year on a pilgrimage. I had the opportunity in 2013 to visit the IDS widows and orphans and study the way in which the Israeli honor their Disciplinary Forces especially those that have passed on. They honor the soldiers' widows and offense that have been left behind by those soldiers that defended the country.

I would like to say that if we as a country state that we are in covenant with the God of Israel then, there is a leaf that we can turn out of the covenant that we have made. The act of honoring that we don't do enough off, maybe we need to learn to begin to recognize the hardship and honor not just by monetary increase, exercise or word of mouth but by legislation. We need to be able to take care of by way of pension for widows and orphans.

We have talked about it and that paper has been floated. It was a policy statement made by the honourable Prime Minister when we came in 2012 and this is now 2015, on the 40th year.

Our honourable Prime Minister made a policy statement about the need for consideration for pension for the disciplinary forces and the task was mooted and then, we had the National Planning and Community Development Department also in on this.

I would like to state on the outset now that we make it an area that must be heard before 2017.

18/05

This is an area that we must have a committee for consideration and step up on this because we will find ourselves demanding more from a lean defence force arrangement. We will be demanding more presence on the ground and more call outs, Mr Speaker.

And therefore, whilst we are doing that we need to balance the equation by addressing the issue of the widows and orphans and again a question of honour here. I believe many of you will say so. I rest my case but it is an important one and the one that I would like you, Mr Speaker, is to also consider our unity pole. As we come into the 40th year, let us consider the pole plan. I thank God for you Mr Speaker.

Mr BOB DADAE (Kabwum) - I thank the Minister for Defence for presenting this Paper. His presentation has taken my memory back to 2011 when I was the then Minister for Defence. So whatever you hear and read reflects the work I did as a Minister at that time. If you said some good things about the work I did, thank you very much but if you saw some problems please let's work together and improve.

I want to support those who have spoken their mind. Let us not forget that Defence is the pride of Papua New Guinea. They protect our country. They will protect us from our enemy countries because when they are recruited they make promises to die for Papua New Guinea. Our soldiers give their lives to save this nation. Therefore, we must take care of their welfare. When I was appointed the Minister for Defence, I looked into their living conditions as well as their pay rise. As you can see there was an improvement.

Mr Speaker, I want to thank the Grand Chief the then Prime Minister at that time for recognising me although I came from the smallest party, the United Party but nevertheless, he appointed me. Once again I thank him on behalf of my people of Kabwum. I want to stress here that I have learnt a lot about military and its disciplines.

Mr Speaker, I am now a member of the largest party in Papua New Guinea, the PNC Party with over 50 members.

Our military is second to none. At one time they were the best jungle fighters in the world or equal to Singapore. Correct me if I am wrong. They continue to remain in the fight because Papua New Guinea is made up of jungles, PNG is a jungle country. Although you can fight using technologies but they cannot match up with our soldiers in the forest. Our soldiers have received the best training in the world equivalent to Australia and the New Zealand. So we must continue to up-skill them with the right training to defend this country.

19/05

I am happy with the comments from the Member for Lae, you must thank your relative from the other side because I want gender equality when males and females can get jobs in the police, the CIS and other disciplinary forces. Women were venturing into these areas except the Defence Force so I had to make it happen.

In Papua New Guinea wherever you go you will see that women are employed in traditionally male dominated professions. That is something that we have achieved during my tenure as Minister for Defence.

Another thing is that legal implications barred Papua New Guinea from engaging in oversea countries, we were confined to operate within our country only. But we belong to an international community, we are no longer an island. We are part of this world and so Papua New Guinea must expose itself. We have to use our talents, experience and knowledge in taking part in international obligations.

As a member of the United Nations, the Commonwealth and the South Pacific Forum, we have to send our soldiers to take part in helping others in need while collecting experience simultaneously to be brought home for application locally.

That was why we came up with this International Obligation Act which was brought to Parliament and passed paving the way for the Papua New Guinea army to go anywhere in this world.

Those were the two things which were achieved during my time as Minister for Defence and I am glad to see that they are reflected in the report.

There are other areas where more needs to be done. These are the areas where I now wish to bring to the attention of this Floor and our Minister so that he can look into them.

Firstly, on the issue of sea element; our navy Papua New Guinea is an island country and our land borders are small while our maritime borders are huge. We need to protect our fish and other marine resources.

Our navy has very small ships and this situation is exacerbated by the effects of climate change causing the sea levels to rise making our boats look like canoes. Our navy suffers extremely in the course of their patrols to protect our resources, provision of security against arms and drug smuggling and this is a key security threat against our country.

We have to equip our navy by buying bigger ships. I visited China at that time in an effort to negotiate something. We are fortunate to have so many friends who can accord us

military assistance. Australia and New Zealand military are our very close friends whom we have enjoyed a lot of benefits from, but apart from them we have Indonesia who fixes our planes, Singapore, China and many others who stand ready to help us but we have to take the initiative.

The Government must now admit that the ships used by the navy are too small; they are akin to fishing boats. We've got to buy bigger boats which can fare well in the oceans because there are many fish poachers out there in our oceans. They poach the fish and speed off while the small crafts we have can do nothing because if they give chase the sea will capsize them. So what can they do? They turn back.

That is why we need to look at buying bigger ships and equipping our navy with them to protect our fish and other threats to this country. That is one of the ideas I wish to give to the Minister and this government to consider.

The second one is to do with the air element. The pilots that you see in Air Niugini, and those that you see in many private aeroplane and helicopter companies and some of the best pilots that you see around have gone through our training in the air wing. They are former army pilots.

20/05

Some of the best pilots that you see around have gone through the Defense Force Air Transport Wing Division. They were the best trained military pilots but their working conditions and facilities were not good. It is not attractive and that is why some of our best pilots leave the military service after we spend hundreds of thousands of kina to train them. We lose them because the conditions are not attractive. We have to provide the environment that is conducive and attractive so that they can remain and perform their duties.

We are not like the United States of America where we can talk about fighter jets and such things. We need aircrafts that can respond to natural disasters. Whenever a natural disaster occurs in this country, the PNGDF should be the first to respond. Because we have not given the necessary support that the PNGDF needs we see the Australian and New Zealand military coming to assist us all the time.

A classic example was Oro Province, when that natural disaster occurred in Oro Province we saw the Australian Army responding with aid and not our own. The fact was that we did not have helicopters and planes for the PNGDF to use. That is why we have to learn from those past histories and challenges that have gone by.

We need to purchase Twin Otter Planes because the big planes that we have now cannot land in airstrips like Arawa, Kabwum or Pindiu in your electorate, Mr Speaker. When a natural disaster occurs we need Twin Otter Planes or PEG, the single engine plane for the PNGDF so, when there is a natural disaster the PNGDF can be able to go to these remote areas.

Therefore, we have to equip our PNGDF with aircrafts that can land in remote areas and airstrips that we have in many parts of the country. I believe that these aircrafts can be very useful because the PNGDF had the best pilots. This is because the pilots who train and fly in Papua New Guinea, in our country's rugged terrain are some of the best pilots in the world, some of whom are now flying international planes. If some of you do not know this, then go to the United Arab Emirates.

That is why we have to spend more money to buy aircrafts and increase the pay for the pilots in order to keep them. So, when there is a natural disaster they can help us instead of another country. We need to be able to help ourselves as a country. We say that we a big brother in the Pacific but when we face challenges such as natural disasters we become the little brother instead. This is not right.

One issue that needs to be addressed is the issue that is faced by the Air Transport Wing of the PNGDF. We need to equip and empower the Air Transport Wing division.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to talk about the retirement and pensions for our ex-combatants and officers who have been retrenched. The decision for the retrenchment exercise, I, believe is not a good decision. Instead of building up the PNGDF were going down. I do not know in whose interest that decision was made. Nevertheless, this retrenchment exercise had its processes rushed and many of the retrenched were not retired properly. And the records that we have during that time showed that they were paid according to the condition of recruitment. That may be the reason why they are going to the Courts because they feel that the retirement packages that they received was not justified.

Another issue is that, our ex-servicemen who have engaged lawyers and lawyers, as you know are expensive. Some of you have spent money on election petitions. And I have spent money on election petitions also and today I am still paying off my debt. Therefore, most of the retirement money of our ex-servicemen is spent on their lawyers. They then do not have money to be repatriated to their home provinces or villages and that is why they are asking for more money.

Nevertheless, this issue can be reviewed to see if our ex-servicemen deserve to get more money and if so, we should then assist them. Many of these ex-servicemen are from the colonial days when many of us were not even born. Therefore, we must respect our elders and I think in this regard, we should give them a far better retirement package.

I am thankful for the 2013 Defense White Paper which was started when I was the Minister responsible. Now, that I see the fruition of the hard work that was done to bring this policy out, I would like to commend the Minister for a job well done. And, I believe that with that White Paper in place we can do more for the PNGDF.

21/05

I would like to ask this Government to invest more in the Force. Israel's population is almost the same as Papua New Guinea's yet they spend so much money on military because of the enemies they have and there are also other countries that see military as very important thus investing a lot of money into their military force. Certain percentage of their GDP goes to Military whereas for Papua New Guinea it's less than one per cent or two per cent at the most. Why don't we increase it up to 10 per cent of the GDP? We don't have enemies; we are friends to all, enemies to none. Our enemies are the drug traffickers, weapon smugglers and illegal fishing. Let's empower ourselves, equip our Force, and give them more incentives to do their job in making Papua New Guinea a better place.

Mr AIDE GANASI (South-Fly) – Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity to debate on the report presented by the Minister for Defence.

Mr Speaker, firstly I commend the Minister for Defence for a very good report, I am quite disappointed that he is not present to hear my contribution on the debate on his report.

Mr Speaker, it would only be right for me to contribute to the debate on the report today. There are some things that I would like to debate on. I recently asked the Defence Minister regarding the recruitment in the Force because I believe recruitment has been unfair. I believe the Defence Minister has called for more recruitment to increase the force. Although it is true that the main function of the force is to defend the country from external threats, I believe that we must increase the force to have the capability to defend Papua New Guinea. It's not good enough to just proclaim our defence when we don't have the actual capability to defend our country.

Recruitment has also been unfair because in the past, the Australians used to go to each province and high school to recruit and they managed to recruit good soldiers. Today we are recruiting soldiers from the city and settlements.

There are two types of ranks in the defence force, one is the commission officers and the other is the non-commissioned officers. Non-commissioned starts from the sergeant major down to private soldier while commission starts from second lieutenant up to the brigadier general the Commander of the Defence Force. In the Force there must be equal distribution of officers from region to region and province to province. The Defence Force cannot be dominated by one ethnic group; it is very dangerous that's why there needs to be fair recruiting.

22/05

This does not apply to the Defence Force only but also in the other two disciplinary forces.

So I wish to see the Defence Minister, as he has already assured me here, drive recruitment to the provinces. Do not recruit here because somebody in Port Moresby can claim to be from Daru or Sepik when in fact they are from elsewhere but to the best of your knowledge you thought you have recruited somebody from Daru. This creates unfairness and creates imbalance in the force. There is no provincial balance or equality in the force. I wish to sound this alarm to the Minister

There are Ex-Servicemen who are claiming not to have received their severance pay. When I trained as an officer we had in the Defence Force a manual of personal administration. This manual determines what you are entitled to and when you leave that is what you will get.

I left the army in 1996 with the rank of major and in my last training sessions I had with my company I spoke on pension. One next week before I was going to leave the force I told my troops that I was going to conduct a training session talking about pension and that's what I did in my last week in the Defence Force.

I cautioned my troops and I told them that I will be leaving you. When I leave you must opt in for pension, don't get everything and go. Now, after some years I m hearing that there are Ex-Servicemen fighting for their entitlements. They are doing that. I am a pensioner now. I get my army pension fortnightly and so I don't know what this cries are all about.

I left in 1996 as a major and I am now an army pensioner. I was not part of the retrenchment that took place. It took place later but I don't know whether the retrenchment was subject to the Manual of Personnel Administration or was it subject to other formulae. I can't talk on that. But, if a soldier went out on pension he would be comfortable with his pension in the village.

Mr Speaker, I will now talk about discipline. After so many years I came back to Port Moresby after winning the election and drove past Murray Barracks and looked at the single quarters. The Single Quarters are no longer Single Quarters, they are now Married Quarters.

There is no single defence force anywhere in the world that allows for married soldiers to reside in single quarters. It is strictly forbidden because when it is operational time a single man will wake up out of there and go on an operation.

I find it very difficult to understand after a couple of years outside to come back and find out that the single quarters are now married quarters.

Another matter I wish to speak on are the battalions. An infantry battalion is a fighting element; it is an operational element. I do not really know because I have not been to Taurama yet, both in the mornings and afternoons to hear the bugle sound. I don't know where that tradition of the Pacific Island Regiment is now? It is a very sad state.

23/05

While driving to Taurama, I went through potholes and this made me wonder as to what sort of structure we have in the Defence Force compared to what was there in the 70's.

I'm critical because I am looking at it from the outside, because recruits from years gone by were fit and were able to carry out any type of manual and odd jobs. Today it is a different story. Part of the forces work regime requires digging big trenches, make sand bags and cut trees, in order to live under the bunker.

I want the recruiting of soldiers to include those who are physically and mentally fit to carry out their duties diligently. The main task of the Defence Force is to defend the country so we have to do the right recruitment.

I would also like to speak on the budget of the force. My Governor mentioned that the soldiers in Wiam requested for assistance to the Members of Parliament from the Western province. I received a lot of these requests because they assume being an ex-soldier; I am able to understand their plight.

Mr Speaker, whether, it is the operational responsibility of the Defence Force, but the operational standard of the force is that no soldier is sent to the club until all operational requirements are met.

If we have to support them with our DSIP, we are going to run short of funds. It is not easy to support troops as we must have surplus budget to do that. The operational team of the Defence force must make sure they have enough money to operate.

And the infantry battalion must be given full complement on battalion. The Platoon must have a full complement of 33 men. A company must have a full complement of armoured and 20 troops. A fighting element must be fully equipped, this includes armoured and soldiers.

So when giving the budget for the force we must make sure it will be adequate to equip the soldiers as well as maintain them. We must make sure the force has full complements in all its areas of importance.

Mr Speaker, today we do not have the Services of the CASA airplane. We had two of these and it was the pride of the country because it represented the Defence Force. Today we do not have these anymore. They are in the hangar and we have to make it our business to have these in the air.

If we want a Defence Force we have to make it our business to spend in order to have a compatible force. In relation to the issue of the ex-servicemen, I want to say that if it was designed properly, the retired soldiers would by now be living happily in their villages. I 'm sorry for those families who are still waiting and those who have been evicted and some of the blame is to be shared by the retired men because the little that they received should have been put into good use like contributing to pensions.

The pension scheme is very good because from experience my pension increases by four per cent annually. I am not sure why these men are complaining for their payments. They rightfully deserve to be paid but wise decisions must be made to avoid continuous court battles.

24/05

If we are able to address their issues, let us address them. I am willing to take part in any committee that is dealing with this issue.

Sir MICHAEL SOMARE (East Sepik) – Thank you Mr Speaker. I want to also support the Report presented by the Minister for Defence.

When the Australian Government established the Defence Force, Papua New Guineans were well trained and disciplined and the same goes for the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary. In the past when a sergeant called a corporal, he would run smartly up to the sergeant and not walk like an old man to him. Therefore, our main problem now with our Defence Force and the Police Force is lack of discipline.

The honourable Governor for Western mentioned something about the pension scheme and I know a lot of people in the Defence Force and Police. Today, there is a Defence Force battalion based in Moem Barracks called Second Battalion of the Royal Pacific Island Regiment.

Mr Speaker, in 1951, the first Royal Pacific Island Regiment Battalion was based in Taurama Barracks while its second battalion was established in Moem Barracks. The Australian Government was very conscious about the defence and security of our country. They wanted a well organised Defence Force so they trained Papua New Guineans, not only in warfare and soldiering, but also other training programs, like pilots. Some of the best pilots were trained from the Defence Force, soldiers and army engineers were given specialised trainings. I know of a very qualified engineer who is working for me in the province who was trained in Australia. We should utilise them.

Mr Speaker, honourable Governor for Western Province was talking about the training of people. This is a good report because it is informing us of what is happening; what the National Government is supposed to do or what plans they have for the Defence Force. In relation to expansion, when we established the Defence Force, it was for the purpose of protecting our Sovereign State of Papua New Guinea. It was established long time ago, even before I left school in Dregerhafen. I don't know, if I had joined the army, I would have become a Brigadier General.

But if it was a good institution then let us support it. What we have provided for in the budget may be minimal but it must come to a maximum level because at the moment, most of the retired soldiers are still living with their families in all the army barracks. Their grown up children, who are eligible to vote, are still living with them and we have not done anything about this problem. It is a shame that the Minister for Defence is not here to listen to our debates. He should be listening to our debates.

Mr Speaker, we need to improve the Defence Force structure which we borrowed from the Australians and polish it up. The Prime Minister, Honourable Peter O'Neill boasts that we are a rich and have a lot of money in the country but where does it show. Show us where the money is? We should put money into such institutions that are responsible for the defence of this country.

The last assistance that I can recall was from the Australian Defence Force who donated six boats to us and I remember receiving them. The Prime Minister has not planned for the expansion of the Defence Force.

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But you have people sitting in all the barracks and you have not repatriated them. Pay them out and send them home.

After 25 - 30 years in the Force they should be gone. They have a better pension like the Police. So it is about time, organisation like the Defence and the Police Force should be looking at the amenities in the establishment such as the Igam or Moem Barracks.

Mr Speaker, this establishment are deteriorating. The Defence Force is a disciplined force and yet the establishments and the amenities are very bad. We can utilise and send them to Vanuatu and other places but what is there for them when they retire. Should we continue to keep them there even after their retirement?

Mr Speaker, when their children reach the age of 18 and over they must also leave the Barracks instead the children continue to reside with their parents and it is even worse in the Police Barracks. No one is really bothered about this.

Mr Speaker, many of us have become Defence Force Ministers and we have made big statements but we should go and inspect the Barracks. The Australian Government donated and established facilities for the Defence Force in those days. The Defence Force establishment was shining in Papua New Guinea then. Since we took over government number of times we have done nothing.

Some of our ideas are good when we talk about increment but why should you increase it when the positions of the men who will serve you in another country is very poor. One day the United Nations will ask you whether you have improved your troops. Why send children who are living in the Barracks to another country and when they get shot their relatives will ask for compensation, that is Papua New Guinea way.

Mr Speaker, the Honourable Member's questions are genuine and I think it is time to improve the facilities donated by the Australian Government. They assist us to build the hospitals made of bricks. They said to build Papua New Guinea Parliament like the Canberra Parliament made of bricks.

Your forefathers were following them around too like dogs. I know that because I was once working with the colonial public servants.

Mr SPEAKER - Honourable Governor, your comments are offensive you are to be cautioned.

Mr MICHAEL SOMARE - I withdraw my comment. But I am just referring to that time when I was working as a teacher, we would follow them around.

Mr Mao Zeming - Point of Order! We have respect for the Grand Chief as the father of this nation and the former Prime Minister and therefore he must select his words correctly.

Mr MICHAEL SOMARE - Thank you, Member for Tewai-Siassi. Well, without me, you would not be educated.

26/05

Mr Speaker, I am talking about the conditions of the military. I was debating the paper. I was not talking out of the paper. I went through it; instead of having lunch I read the report first to know what the Minister is saying.

I am only saying that we should improve their conditions. The honourable Member spoke about pension scheme. They all have better pension schemes, including the police and the CIS but improve their conditions. When they retire from those forces, you must retire them properly and send them back home.

I speak but maybe the Member for Fincshhafen will think that I am angry but I am not, I am saying that they have served the government for 25 or 30 years and when they retire, we should repatriate them to their villages.

In the past I did not have a lot of money, you are asking me what I have done, I have done a lot for this country, do not bully me. I have achieved a lot for this country but I am getting a lot of complaints from the ex military personnel, many are asking why things they

expect are not happening. Why are they not being retired to their province? We are talking about a Defence Force Retirement Scheme here.

Mr Speaker, I deliberately came back because I want to say something on this paper. Since I live around here, I have lived in Port Moresby for about 50 years. I did not come here from Finchhsafen yesterday and am here. No, when I came from Finchhsafen I came to school here and I have remained here ever since.

That is why I want to inform you that there are anomalies in our military barracks, let us not pretend and cover them up. There must be fairness in promotions and such like.

He is talking about equal distribution and he asked about changes in the public service. If I had changed the format of the public service you wouldn't have been a master right now. In my time they would have kicked your butts, those young patrol officers barely out of their teens, even as young as 16 years old can be a patrol officer who will bully you and sideline you.

I experienced that, Mr Speaker, you are young and you did not experience that. I was old when I was sent to this Parliament but when I first came I was very young.

I am not trying to denigrate the government; rather I am saying we should improve the conditions of the military. We have a lot of money in the government now. You are saying that we are going to have a deficit budget, but I am saying Defence is very important.

I want to conclude by saying that I have nothing against anybody, but there are many issues raised in this paper that Members need to debate thoroughly because that's the only venue we've got to get the Minister's attention. None of us can make appointments to see him about complaints we have about the Defence Force. This is an opportune time to debate the paper. Like all the other papers and proposed legislation, this is our venue to talk so allow us to talk.

Mr BEN MICAH (Kavieng – Minister for Public Enterprises and State Investments)
– Thank you, Mr Speaker, I wish to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Annual Report of the Defence Force for the year 2011 which was presented by the Minister for Defence this morning.

Mr Speaker, I understand that the poor Minister has a problem with his teeth and so cannot be present today but the Prime Minister and other ministers are here. It is healthy to hear some of the ideas and criticisms coming from the Members of Parliament, especially

from the Governor of East Sepik who has been Prime Minister on many occasions dating back to Self Government.

We can say that many of these institutions must be credited to him, to the Governor of New Ireland and the Governor of Western Highlands who are our father figures in creating this country. And consequently over the years they have managed this institution which includes Defence.

I wish to say that what is pleasing about this report is that the Government, under this Prime Minister, is now doing something to address a lot of legacy issues within the Defence Force.

Many of these issues have to do with human element of the Force such as moral, training and discipline which many other speakers have already highlighted. A lot of them have to do with equipment, weaponry and other issues.

This Defence Force, in spite of the problems that are being encountered, is a force that we must always be proud of. You see in the First World War and the Second World War where our fathers and grandfathers fought with the Australians, Germans and the British they even fought alongside the Japanese during the war. Why? Because the culture of fighting and defending your territory is not something that was introduced by the colonial master. The tradition of fighting is inherent in us for thousands of years since we occupied this land which our ancestors inherited and passed down to us to inherit today.

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So, I do not think that the idea of defence and the idea of fighting is a foreign concept that we do not necessarily have to work ourselves up about. We are fighting men and our country's cultural history is based on a warrior history. For as long as our history dates back our people have been fighting in the mountains, jungles, grasslands and over the seas.

Therefore, the foreigners did not introduce the idea of military and the notion to defend ourselves, communities, families, properties and land. These are naturally our people's instincts since our forefathers time, Mr Speaker.

I think that what we just need to do and I believe the Minister and under the leadership of the Prime Minister, we are now moving towards harnessing that aggression. Our people are aggressive warriors by nature and we have seen that aggression in land disputes, social disputes and even in sports like rugby and soccer. Therefore, that is our people's natural instinct that comes from our ability to fight, defend and protect what is ours.

I, therefore, agree with some of the points that the former Prime Minister and Governor of East Sepik raised are true. We need to look more seriously now and I believe that the Minister is now moving towards looking at a much more comprehensive policy that will address all the different components of Defence like the maritime element and the air element of the Defense Force. I will further discuss more on these elements a bit more but I think that it is important that we treat the Defence Force as a very important institution that we must completely trust and rely on for the defence of our land, women, children, future and resources.

Mr Speaker, I now would like to point out several issues that I see:

(1) The Defence Force has a huge amount of respect and reputation which was earned in 1980 when for the first time it went for a foreign expedition. It left the shores of our land to help our Melanesian brothers under the leadership of the Governor of New Ireland as the Prime Minister then. They assisted this country to control and asserted the authority for the Melanesian people in order for them to get Independence. Because the British and French were the cause for the rebellion on Santo in order for the native people not to achieve Independence.

Therefore, Papua New Guinea put up their hand and our Defence Force went and carried out this big operation to help Vanuatu get Independence. With that, I think that the biggest mistake that was made by the government that was in power in 1988 to 1992 was when they engaged the Defence Force to be involved in the conflict between the landowners of Pangu and the police. The Defence Force at that time was not trained well in civilian restoration of order went in and created this problem.

Mr Speaker, when you look back to the year 1988 up to this day, we have destroyed our country's Defence Force. The soldiers were traumatised and put into a situation where they had the blood of civilians and citizens of this country on their hands. This was something where they were not trained for and psychologically also not prepared for.

Then when the war ended in a situation when there was no victorious side, I believe that the morale of our soldiers went down. Then all the issues came after which included the Sandline Crisis, the problems that occurred at Moem Barracks and Taurama and issues of soldiers getting involved in politics. And this is happening because the Defence Force is not thinking like an army that is supposed to be trained to defend the country against foreign aggression. Nevertheless, it has become a part of our soldiers' mentality to be involved in politics and having the blood of the country's citizens in their hands.

Mr Speaker, this is the biggest challenge that I see that this government is now confronted with. And that is to shift the Defence Force back into its normal core basic duties.

Mr Speaker, finally, I am one who believes that Papua New Guinea given its natural resources, population, rising wealth and prosperity must have strong Defence Force. I also would like to see us build a strong Navy and an Air Force as well.

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We must defend our seas and all our vulnerable areas in the borders of our land in the territory of our nation are not protected. The sea is just open. How many times have I said this in Cabinet Meetings? Our people in Emerald Islands and Musau Island see fishing boats, who are just blatantly breaching the territory of our country without fishing licenses coming to fish in our waters. This is because our Navy does not have the capacity and even the boats don't have the fuel to go after these fishing boats, so how many billion dollars or tonnes of fish and other marine products are they taking out of our country because we do not have the capacity to defend our waters. See the issue at Spratly island, Vietnam, Philippines, Thailand, China, Taiwan and even the US are now embroiled in that huge conflict, why, because of oil and gas in the sea. There are problems happening in some countries like Europe where nations of the world are now going into conflict and the navies are there. We know that we are currently concerned about the tuna in the sea but tomorrow we may talk about oil and gas and we are one of the first countries in the world planning to mine minerals under the sea. How would we know if some countries were to steal our gold under the sea while our navy ships float up there with no fuel.

The Ministers report has shown some good indication and since the Prime Minister took office in 2011 there were some improvements like uniform and housing. I want to congratulate this Government for which I am a part of as a Minister for making changes to the hierarchy of the Defence Force, putting in younger commanders who are taking over the Chief of Operations and Chief of Staff. I can see that they are now moving towards the modernisation of the Defence Force. If you go to Taurama today, you will see that some issues of discipline have been addressed and the Government is now putting funds to address accommodation issues for the soldiers in the Barracks.

The biggest problem we created was to bring in the Defence Force to the Bougainville conflict. This led to the Sandline crisis and other crises where soldiers were involved in either civilian or political are issues we must realise that we have created the issue. Let us

shift the Defence Force to their core responsibilities and I want to support the Minister. We now have three soldiers in Sudan; we should have a thousand soldiers in Syria or Iraq and Afghanistan. This is where they will get their training, they will be kept busy and at the same time up-skilling their capacity to wage conflict in trouble spots rather than just hanging around in Port Moresby drinking beer and trying to involve them in politics and other activities, which is not supposed to be their function.

Mr Speaker, the Government should look seriously into the issue of beefing up our navy and we must also make sure that we build up an Airforce that can take any kind of threat. Look at Israel! It is only a small country with six million people surrounded by 200 million Arabs but none of those Arab countries can dare to challenge Israel because they fear the capacity of Israel.

The other thing is intelligence. Papua New Guinea is an open book; so many people know our secrets, so many people already know what we are planning even before things happen. So as the Leader of PPP, I think it's about time we begin to move away from having too many advisors especially from countries who are neighbours to us. We already have enough people to advise us. We should go far away to seek Defence advisors from countries who are really fighting wars in those places to help us in reshaping and rebuilding our Defence Force to make it become our pride. We were proud of our fathers, the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels and are now famous in Australia and will be remembered forever because they defended Australia and our country against aggression. Their fighting ability has translated to our Defence Force and continues to be there but I think we just need to organise well.

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But I want to commend the Minister for this report which outlines some of the positive things that the Defence Force is trying to do. I am very confident the leadership of the new highly trained Commander, Mr Gilbert Toropo.

This Ministry under the leadership of the Minister and Prime Minister with all the programs of modernisation we are going to build a capable Defence Force that will be able to sleep well. And trust me, if anything happens our Defence Force will rise up to the occasion to defend our land.

Mr POWES PARKOP (National Capital District) – Thank you Mr Speaker, for allowing me to air my debate on this Report on our Defence Force.

I don't have much to say because much has been said by Mr Ben Micah, Member for South Fly, Governor for Madang and Governor of East Sepik.

I just want to put a suggestion to our Defence Force that we must maintain our pride. After independence most of our institutions have deteriorated because we didn't look after them and ignored them completely. Maybe because we don't have money to maintain these institutions and it is not only Defence Force but also Police and Education.

Mr Speaker, the point is that we must understand the use of Defence Force; in our policy it says that we are friends to all and enemies to none.

Minister Ben Micah mentioned that we must build our Defence Force, and I wonder, whom are we going to war with? Is this the priority of the Defence Force or what is the priority? Do we have to build the Defence Force like the Israeli Army? They build a strong defence force to guard against all the Arabs because they have not solved the conflict and its still there.

We PNG don't have any problem at all, all we need to do is to support our maritime territories. My suggestion is that we put all our resources to maritime areas and one example is Lombrum Naval Base in Manus, during the colonial times the Australians used it as their Naval Base and it was like a city. The capacity was there and the Australia Navy ship helped to guard the territorial waters of PNG.

But now we don't have the capacity, if we can't build it then we lease it out to other countries so that they assist us with protecting our territorial waters.

Mr Speaker, for the Air element we can lease it also to other countries so that in return they come and protect us. One example is Singapore Air Force, they don't have enough air space so they can always come here and do their training and build our capacity

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Mr Speaker, why don't we invite them to come and set up a base here so that, they can manoeuvre, train and build up our capacity in return. Let us sign up an agreement with them if we cannot build it up ourselves. Or let us look at other ways in which we can build up the capacity of our Defence Force with manpower, equipment, et cetera. I have suggested this to the Australian High Commissioner.

Mr Speaker, we are talking about Australian not sharing but what can we hide. They know everything about PNG whether we are planning or not planning.

Mr Speaker, what I suggest that if, we cannot train our men and women ourselves, we get them to join the Australian Defence Force. Do you see any possible future that we can work with Australia? I do not see it happening! We will not have a war with Australia in the near possible future, even 50 or 100 years from now.

Therefore, why not ask them to recruit or get our young men and women to be trained by the Australian Defence Force in specialist professional fields like pilot, submarine commanders, air force jet fighters, cooks, mechanic, welder or whatever because we do not have the capacity to do it. If our Government cannot fund it, let's make this type of arrangement and I am sure the Australian Defence Force would assist.

Mr Speaker, you see the young Australians, they did not see the Australian Defence Force as career path for them. They do not like it because they do not want to join the army and attend to wars and fighting. I think those who join military will not stay longer. There is a fixed term and our young people can join them in one or two duties and stay there until his or her term is up. They can come back to join Papua New Guinea Defence Force. If not, they can be employed as pilots with Air Niugini or some airlines in Papua New Guinea. We have to make the decision.

Mr Speaker, we have to make a decision about whether we need a Defence Force or not. If we need it, we have to put the money and if we do not have the money, we have to find other methods or approach to build up capacity and the skills, the level of the preparedness, et cetera, taking into account what we need Defence Force for.

I see that we are not going to war even though the Governor of Madang thinks that I am advocating for war. I am not sure, maybe it might happen or not but we are friends with Indonesia. When I was advocating for the rights of the West Papuans, I was not suggesting that we go to war, but that we have a moral duty.

Mr Speaker, however, it is not the problem that we created, but we have a moral duty, we are a mature nation, we should have a mature relationship with Indonesia. We should put the hard issue and address it and the Prime Minister knows. I am happy that we are going in that path because I understand that between us and the Indonesia, if we solve the problem of Papua, we will have a very good robust relationship with Indonesia and they are our closest neighbours and have the biggest economy and technology. We can have more integration like social, economic, sporting and whatever cultural activities with them.

Mr Speaker, I do not see us going to war so the priority in the Defence Force is to build up the marine and air element. We have to have air capacity to move troops around

because we might not need them for war purpose to defend the country but at the time of natural disasters, which is unpredictable.

When natural disasters happen, we do not have a Natural Disaster respond capacity where we have volunteer to attend. We have the Defence Force and they should be prepared at all the times to deal with natural disasters so we need the capacity in the air otherwise we have to build up the engineering capacity or their development capacity.

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Mr Speaker, the Governor of Madang has already highlighted and may be you are thinking that we in Port Moresby do not appreciate our Defence Force. May be let me say that what have they done in Port Moresby. Are they doing some development work or construction work in Port Moresby? Are they in one way assisting our city? Of course not, they are just here in the barracks doing nothing but when they get drunk or what, we hear of problems, so maybe that's why we do not like them. They are supposed to be an asset to us but then they suddenly become liability to us.

Mr Speaker, it is my opinion that maybe we should not have the two forces in the city. We have the Police Force which is the civilian force to put all of us under the law and then we have the Defence Force which thinks psychologically that they are superior or they are not under the Police Force. This is when the problem comes up.

I understand too that the Government has decided to relocate the Defence Force Headquarters. I think, we can look at that possibility but we are proud to have the Defence Force in Port Moresby because this is our city but they should not be just here to rest and recreate with their families. They should be utilised in some developmental work so they are busy rather than them looking or waiting for trouble to happen or they forget about discipline and end up in trouble.

Mr Speaker, I think another purpose for them is peace keeping so we can build up that capacity through arm conflict. I am sure there are some areas in the world that are dangerous and probably they are needed for peace keeping and they might end up in arm conflict there. In that situation, they can be prepared to do that and we can train them accordingly but otherwise, I see that arm conflict or training them for that purpose, maybe there is not much need for it.

Mr Speaker, the Minister has presented a very good statement and we should not really look at what is the real role of the Defence Force, what is the priority area that they

should focused on, do we need to keep all the elements of the Defence Force as a fully functional Defence Force just like any other defence force in the world or we use them for other purposes. If we testified that clear then the Government can invest money on them but it the Government is not going to do that then we come up with some suggestions to help the Government. I have already given some suggestions.

Mr Speaker, otherwise I thank the Minister for a very good statement and I think otherwise, it is a legacy problem that we are taking slowly to address it. As we speaker, I thank the Prime Minister for sealing the Taurama road, the roads in Marry Barrack are being sealed, their swimming pool and gymnasium. The things are improving and I think the Defence Force is gradually improving. I am sure this will also extend to Moem Barrack and Igam Barrack with the same type of development and upgrading. We will give time to the Government but let us make that analysis so that we know where we are heading.

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

That that question be now put.

Motion – That the Parliament take note of the paper – agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 3.40 p.m..