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LEE SIROTE

Acting Principal Parliamentary Reporter

EIGHTH DAY

Friday 20th February 2015

DRAFT HANSARD

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EIGHTH DAY

Friday 20th 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 Deputy Speaker, again took the Chair at 10:40 a.m., and invited the Member for Morobe, **Honourable Kelly Naru** to say Prayers:

‘Long nem bilong god tri wan, God Papa, Pikinini na Holi Spirit. God Papa, tenkiu long olgeta taim yu save blesim ol lidas bilong yu long mekim wok insait long kantri, mipela tok tenkiu. Mipela tok tenkiu long dispela wik em go pinis na kan long dispel wik we em kam long arere bilong em. Long olgeta Memba, yu bleism ol wantaim gutpela tingting na wisdom na jasmen long mekin disisen na mekim polisi na mekim lo bilong benefitim ol pipol bilong yu.

God Papa, long dispel dei, miplea kam gen long mekim planti ol narapela wok ems tap long gutpela bilong ol pipol long dispela kantri, na miplea askim yu long luksave long miplea wanwan. Miplea ino gutpela ol man na meri, mipela kam wantaim nogut bilong mipela yet. Mipela mekim nogut long pasin bilong tingting, insait bilong pasin bilong toktok na insait long pasin bilong wokabaut bilong mipela wanwan.

Olegat dispela yu save pinis long em, God Papa, mipela askim long yu na lusim nogut bilon gmipela na rausim olgeta rong bilong mipela na pulumapim mipela wantaim gutpela bilong yu.

Blesim Depiti Spika bilong mipela long dispela dei long kontrolim dispel Haus na blessing bilong yu ken stap wantaim Paim Minista na depiti bilong em wantaim ol Ministas insait long sait bilong Gavman. Wankain tu, blessing bilong yu iken stap wantaim Lida bilong Oposisen na depiti bilong em na ol Sedo Ministas bilong ol na mipela olgeta stap insait long dispela Palamen.

Kam Lod Jesus, blesim dispela dei bilong mipela long dispel Palamen. Amen.’

QUESTIONS

Dr ALLAN MARAT – Mr Deputy Speaker, my questions are directed to the Prime Minister and for the Minister for Lands and Physical Planning and the Minister for Police to take note, so that they could get in contact with their officers on the ground.

Mr Deputy Speaker, business houses in Kokopo and the ordinary peace loving people residing at the Takubar Industrial area have expressed serious concerns about the increasing number of settlements by illegal squatters along the beach front around the Sea View Apartments areas.

I am reliably informed that this week alone crimes of murders, stabbings, breaking and entering and burglaries were committed in and around the Sea View Apartments area. Almost all or most of these crimes were committed by the illegal squatters. Business houses in Rabaul Town are also facing similar problems involving illegal squatters. The rapid increase in crime rate has gone unnoticed by the East New Britain Provincial Government because it is half asleep.

Illegal squatting on customary land and on State land has instilled unnecessary fear in the hearts and lives of the people, which also include senior officials of both the government and the private sectors. This issue will affect the quality and growth of the economic and social development of East New Britain Province which can result in business houses being discouraged to invest in the province.

Firstly, Prime Minister, whilst citizens of this nation have the constitutional right to freedom of movement.

My questions are:

02/08

(1) What is the Government's policy regarding illegal squatter settlements?

(2) Does the Government have plans to review and amend *Section 52* of the *Constitution* regarding the rights for freedom of movement with the view to completely ban illegal squatter settlements?

(3) Can the Prime Minister assure the people of East New Britain Province and the country that he will revisit the Supreme Court judgment that ruled parts of the *Vagrancy Act* unconstitutional?

(4) If so, can the *Vagrancy Act* be amended where necessary and be enacted and enforced immediately before people take the law into their own hands?

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank the Honourable Member for Rabaul for his questions.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am saddened to hear that the hardships faced by residents around the Takubar area in Kokopo are caused by illegal settlers.

Mr Deputy Speaker, all citizens living in a community must respect each other. This Government believes strongly that the rights of all citizens need to be protected.

Mr Deputy Speaker, there is a reason why a lot of people are now moving into our cities and towns throughout the country. They are seeking a better living for their families and themselves.

The *Constitution* provides that we cannot stop the movement of people to anywhere and throughout the country. Nevertheless, settlements cannot be established on any customary land. This Government is pursuing to try to have planned settlements where currently we are doing a major pilot project in Port Moresby. The government is trying to issue land titles for the settlement areas. In this way the settlements become planned and they can also have access to city's services.

Mr Deputy Speaker, many settlers living in illegal settlements are the city's workers we see every day and they are our citizens, so we need to look after them. As leaders our neglect has forced our people to live in settlements. As a responsible Parliament and Government, we must have planned settlements in all the major cities and towns throughout the country.

Therefore, we are starting here in Port Moresby but this program will be extended to Lae, Kokopo and Mt Hagen. The Government will reclaim undeveloped land and subdivide it and give the titles to citizens to settle in those areas.

Mr Deputy Speaker; The Government's next major project will be the public housing. We have tried many different models but there have been no success. The Government's aim is to provide services only to titled lands so that people will build houses only in these areas. Illegal settlers will be encouraged to move into titled areas in order to have access to clean water, road access, power and et cetera.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the most important thing is that our citizens will have titles to land which they can own.

03/08

Mr Deputy Speaker, through this government's initiative we already have a partnership with the commercial banks in place, especially with BSP regarding this housing programme.

Mr Deputy Speaker, nowhere else in the world will you find a 40 year loan repayment period at a fixed low interest rate of 4 percent.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this initiative will allow our people to borrow money from the commercial banks to build their homes. The government will provide the land title so that our citizens can use the title to borrow money from the banks.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I will not adjust *Section 52* of the *Constitution* because the last thing any Government wants to do is to interfere with the rights of the people especially regarding freedom of movement.

Mr Deputy Speaker, it is tempting to try and introduce Acts like the *Vagrancy Act*. Nevertheless, we must never forget that these are our people and they need our help. We need to be innovative in our programmes like the public housing programme and the availability of land for such projects. These are the areas that we should encourage.

Mr Deputy Speaker, through our Free Education Programme many children are going to be educated. The government will then expand on skills training through our investment in technical colleges. This is aimed at improving the opportunities for our people for a better quality of life.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to therefore assure the Honourable Member for Rabaul that this government is planning a large scale planned settlement programme throughout the country.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr KELLY NARU – I would like to direct my questions to the Minister for National Planning and for the Attorney-General and the Minister for Finance to take note. And insofar as it concerns their respect portfolios any of the three Ministers can answer.

Mr Deputy Speaker, over the recent years we have had introduced to this country the National Identification System where this system is being rolled out.

My province has a similar system that is being rolled out by the Honourable Member for Lae and it is called the Bio-Metric Registration System.

Honourable Minister, there is great concern that these exercises are bordering on the threat to violate certain sacred and fundamental rights of the citizens of this country

guaranteed by the PNG *Constitution*. I am referring to the right to privacy and confidentiality, and the right to the freedom of information and expression.

My questions are:

(1) Can the Minister tell this Parliament and the people of this nation under what constitutional and legal basis is this identification process being rolled out?

These rights are very fundamental to everybody in this country; however, and I note that these rights can be regulated. Under *Section 38* of the *Constitution* these rights can be regulated in way and in a manner in a democratic society like ours that has proper regard for the rights and dignities of mankind.

04/08

(2) If the exercise is rolled out and it threatens the rights of our citizens was the exercise done under a certain law with proper regard to the rights and dignities of our people?

(3) Was it enacted in accordance with the constitutional requirements of *Section 38*?

(4) If not, then what other legislations warrants the basis for the roll out of this exercise in the country, especially in Morobe Province?

Honourable Minister, the so-called biometric registration exercise was rolled out at a total cost of K8 million to the detriment of the taxpayers and the people of Lae city. To add on to that we are also trying to create a Lae City Authority to improve municipal services but the money was spent on the roll out exercise.

The honourable Member for Lae mentioned that that the exercise will be completed and a report would be submitted to your Department by October last year.

(5) Minister, have you received such a report?

The Morobe Provincial Government is still waiting to receive that report.

(6) Can the Minister inform the Parliament of the total value of the roll out exercise and what was the constitutional and legal basis of that exercise conducted in Lae?

On top of that, Honourable Minister –

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Governor, address the Chair.

Mr KELLY NARU – I apologise.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the project costs almost K8 million.

I want to know whether that program has been sanctioned through the proper financial procurement processes. In terms of the project being tendered and approved by the Tenders Board either in the province or at the National Supply and Tenders Board level.

A lot of money has been spent on this exercise and we haven't got value for money. Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr CHARLES ABEL – Thankyou, Mr Deputy Speaker.

I would like to thank the Honourable Governor for Morobe for his comprehensive questions in relation to the National ID program, and the Lae biometric system which I will do my best to cover.

Mr Deputy Speaker, one of the things that Papua New Guinea has lacked over the years is the lack of access to good statistics and data to support our development programmes. We have never really and fully understood the demographics of our country, and the movement of our people. Hence, this has hampered targeting our best plans and development activities.

What we are doing with the National ID Programme and the other reforms like the National Statistics Office is updating the census, the CPR figures, household, income and expenditures reports, the GDP and the business activities survey so once for all we can get accurate GDPO information. This is a part of a broader exercise by the O'Neill-Dion government to get the statistics accurate and up-to-date.

Now, the National ID Programme is a part of that exercise. The Governor referred to individual rights and the rights to privacy but we understand and acknowledge that.

Mr Deputy Speaker, nevertheless, the interest of the Government is in the fundamental rights of our people to affordable housing, education, health and et cetera. We are struggling to deliver services and in order to do that we need a good accurate population information management system, and that is the fundamental and underlying basis for this process.

Within the Government system there is an agency entitled by law under the *Civil Registry Act* to collect information on births and deaths.

05/08

This agency is authorised to collect such information and have the necessary protective mechanisms for that information for its legal basis. We had to re-enforce this information system to help empower the Civil Registry Office through this exercise.

The Honourable Governor may recall the Legislation that we brought to Parliament some time ago to make sure that what we are doing is fully embedded and authorised by law and that it went through the relevant provisions giving the Civil Registry Office the authority and power to collect information.

The Constitutional requirements are already present and we have an agency that is fully qualified to collect information. What we are now doing is empowering that agency to do the work and for information to be collected and entered through National Identity Information System Database. We have conducted awareness to try and make sure information is collected and stored through the integrated information system database at Telikom Rumana.

The information collected will be well protected and only accessed by relevant Government agencies.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this coming Monday we will go to Mendi to open the first Provincial Fixed Data Collection Office in Mendi town together with the Prime Minister. We will go to the rural areas like Kandep starting this year. We need support from the Leader of Opposition because this is a very difficult exercise but very important nonetheless.

Mr Deputy Speaker, one important aspect to note is the identity steps. At the moment the current exercise used for voting and the registration of land have resulted in people using the identity of other people. As you will know through the election process we have had issues with the voting process where you can vote under the name of another person.

When you go to collect your birth certificate you can just carry a bunch of names and signatures to the Civil Registry Office in Port Moresby and register the lands under somebody else's name.

This is a requirement that will also provide many of the protective mechanisms that will safe guide this and in the rollout of the six offices our people will be able to access birth certificates at the provincial level. In these six offices we will have the NSO, Civil Registry and National Planning officers.

Exercises like censuses, updating the common roll and all the exercises in relation to health and education information will all be there. For once and for all, we will have a system that captures in a timely manner and the Government in general can produce updated and up-to-date statistics for the purposes of planning.

There have concerns raised by the Churches that this exercise is in line with the biblical prophecies foretold in the Book of Revelations regarding the 'Mark of the Beast', namely, the numbers 666. These are absolute nonsenses and I want to assure the Parliament that this is a

genuine exercise by the Government with to collect information to keep government records up-to-date. This is so that it will facilitate others things that you can see it through the awareness program that is happening now; like difficulties in opening bank accounts, licenses, passports and voting.

Sir Michael Somare – Point of Order! The Honourable Governor was asking a series of questions are in relation to the law because you have squatters filling up the town areas in Port Moresby and Lae.

The questions are in relation to what law we following to get the overall cover and what is the Government's position?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Your point of order is out of order, Minister you may go on.

06/08

Mr CHARLES ABEL – I thank the Grand Chief, Sir Michael Somare, for his interjection but I did not hear anything related to squatter settlements in Lae.

I only heard the questions in relating to the privacy and the legal aspects of it, and I believe I have covered it.

With regards to the Lae biometric programme that was conducted in the Lae district, I had informed the Parliament that I received the report late last year. We had discussions about the desire to conduct the programme and I informed the Member for Lae that we would conduct a national one. We then had an agreement that we would do a combined exercise and the report was handed over to the project management unit. This was to see if they could incorporate and utilise the information that she has collected and combine it with the ongoing national exercise.

We are hopeful that we will be able to utilise her information to support the data we require from Lae district. As far as the procurement process is concerned, I am not privy to that detail and will let the relevant authority process her report, but I will leave that as a separate issue. Nevertheless, we will do our best to work together and utilise the information that she has collected.

Mr EREMAN TOBAINING Jnr – Thank you, Mr Speaker, for recognising the people of Kokopo and East New Britain Province.

My question is directed to the Minister for Mining and could the Minister for Environment and Conservation take note.

(1) Is the Minister aware that around September 2014, Niugini Mine Ltd; who is the developer of Wild Dog, Sinivit Gold Project in East New Britain without notice to the Provincial Government and the landowners deserted the mine?

They left behind a skeletal staff of six people including a care taker mine manager to manage and monitor the tailings system. This is according to the preliminary on-site inspections by the provincial officers which showed that this action poses a real threat to the eco-system, headwaters and the general community within the out flow of the Warongoi River System.

(2) If the Minister has been briefed, what steps has the Ministry taken as per the *Mine Safety Act* to have the company held accountable for its actions?

(3) As part of the emergency declaration by the Department of Environment and Conservation, under *the Environment Act*, has the Minister taken steps to equally hold the directors of Niugini Mine Ltd accountable for their actions?

Mr BYRON CHAN – Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I would like to thank the Honourable Governor for East New Britain for his questions. I am aware of the current situation at Sinivit. Therefore, I would like to assure the Governor and the people of East New Britain that my Department and the officials from the Department of Environment are attending to the situation.

As of last week, we sent our staff from MRA and the Department of Environment to assess the current situation regarding the issues you highlighted and also to check on the skeletal staff and the mine management of the current operation.

We also believe there that is a threat to the eco-system and possible damages to the environment with a possible spillage of waste into the river system. These are being assessed and a report will be delivered to my office by next week.

07/03

Mr Deputy Speaker, the directors and the company have lodged in their license renewal claims and my Department will renew it at this stage because of the current situation.

So, let me assure you, that my Department with the Environment Minister and his Department are attending to this matter seriously.

We will hold those responsible regardless of whatever outcome the report states. At this stage we are not quite happy with the performance of the company and we have not yet reissued the license for further operations.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr ROBERT GANIM – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

My question is directed to the Education Minister. I ask this question because I am the Chairman of the Parliamentary Referral Committee on Education.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my committee presented a Report to this Parliament in August last year regarding Teachers Entitlements and we made recommendations regarding teacher's leave fares and other issues.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my committee gave three months to the Education Ministry to provide us a feedback on the report we presented in Parliament. Up until today, my committee is aware that there is a feedback and that the Education Ministry had set up a working committee to address the issues that were raised by the teachers.

The teachers of this country were assured that a report was to be presented in Parliament in this session and they are anticipating this report. We are coming to the close of this session and I have not seen it appear on the Notice Papers.

Therefore, is the Minister and his Department doing something about my committee's report? The teachers of this country want to know what the Ministry is doing.

Mr NICK KUMAN – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker and Member for Wabag.

Yes, we received the report and the working committee has finalised the details of the response. I had sent a note to you yesterday informing you that the report has not gone to Cabinet for clearance yet. That is why we were not able to present it on the Floor of Parliament last week or this week. We hope that we will get a response in the May Session.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DON POLYE – Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

My question is directed to the Prime Minister and for the Minister of State Enterprise, the Minister of Petroleum and Energy and the Minister of Treasury can take note.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my question relates to another ad hoc, like I always say or the immediate reactions of the decision of a policy vacuum. The question relates to the memorandum signing between ExxonMobil and the State and the decision made or the MOU to establish an LNG power plant close to the ExxonMobil LNG plant. Once again, this is one of those repeals of policy in the policy vacuum.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my questions are:

(1) Can the Prime Minister explain to this Honourable Parliament and to the people of this country what important details are there in this MOU?

(2) Will the P'nyan Gas be affected?

(3) If so, to what extent in terms of its resource envelop and what portion will be used for the proposed power plant?

08/08

(4) Can the Prime Minister confirm if the P'nyang Gas was traded with ExxonMobil for the proposed power plant?

In other words we give ExxonMobil the P'nyang Gas in exchange for them to build us the plant.

(5) Was it traded in that manner?

(6) If P'nyang Gas ownership was given to ExxonMobil, will ExxonMobil provide power to Port Moresby, which I understand is 25 mega watts accordingly to the reports at a lower or subsidized cost to the businesses and residents of Port Moresby?

(7) Will that plan be also extended to the rest of the country?

(8) Can the Prime Minister agree with the Opposition that his government's action of trading the gas with ExxonMobil continues to erode competition in the gas or petroleum industry, which makes ExxonMobil to become another strong monopoly in that important sector?

(9) Can the Prime Minister also agree with the Opposition that since ExxonMobil will solely own the power plant no Papua New Guinean including the landowners in P'nyang will benefit as participants in the equity structure construction or the ownership of this plant?

(10) Can the Prime Minister inform this Parliament and the people of this country to what formula will ExxonMobil sell its power to customers?

(11) Will it be competitive to what Power PNG is selling or what these two generators that the Prime Minister has launched recently in Port Moresby and Lae?

(12) Will the cost be lower than the cost that will be charge to Papua New Guineans users?

(13) What is the formula because it is a commercial arrangement?

(14) Can the Prime Minister inform the people of Papua New Guinea if his government has taken into consideration gas fled of the gas that is used by the industry at the gas field?

(15) Or have they used them for their own commercial activities on the field.

(16) Has the government considered those fled gas as gases that can be charged by the State for commercial reason because these are gases owned by PNG but is used by the industry without paying for it?

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am asking these questions because this gas can be stored and used to build a Papua New Guinean owned power plant outside of the risks or committing P'nyang or other Papua New Guinea Gas resources.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his questions on the important project on LNG.

Mr Deputy Speaker, again, let me inform this Parliament that it is important and that we understand the facts before we ask questions. Now, let me correct the Opposition Leader because he is certainly misleading the Parliament and the country about the details of the arrangement we have with ExxonMobil.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this is not a reaction that he claims we make policies on the run. Since we entered into discussions about developing the LNG gas and gas development in this country and Papua New Guineans have been asking for domestic use of their gas.

This is not a new story because for the first time the government has been able to tell the developer to secure some use of the gas now in the country so we should be proud of that achievement.

09/08

Mr Deputy Speaker, we cannot continue to export everything while our people are living in darkness. That is why this Government is committed in securing this supply for this country so that we can provide cheaper energy to our citizens and to our businesses so that they can grow the economy.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the arrangement is very simple and it doesn't need Einstein to work this out. The arrangement is that they will supply gas so we can generate power for our

cities and towns throughout the country. The first supply of the gas will be 20 million cubic feet of gas over the next 20 years. This is because ExxonMobil is now producing slightly more than what they would produce so there is availability for some of that gas to be given to us.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we have got some international events coming up and the demand for power in Port Moresby and the whole country is increasing. Successive Governments have shareholders in PNG Power but we have not put additional capital into PNG Power to expand its capacity. As a result, we are experiencing continuous blackouts throughout the country and we cannot blame anyone else.

Mr Deputy Speaker, our job is to secure enough energy supply so we can meet the demands of our people. What we have done is that ExxonMobil is producing their own power to run the LNG plant at portion 152. They are producing access power which we can have access to. Under the MOU they will supply 25 megawatts of power to the city by June.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to make sure that they will deliver this by June when the games are on and with all the other things that will also be happening in the city. We cannot embarrass ourselves with continues blackouts that we are having in the city. Therefore, we cannot afford to embarrass the city and the Opposition may think otherwise, but we have a responsibility to make sure that we do that.

(Mr Don Polye interjecting)

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Mr Deputy Speaker, when we are talking about the 25 megawatts which will become available and then on top of that an additional 50 megawatts capacity will be built. This is so that 50 megawatts plus the 25 megawatts will make it up to 75 megawatts, which is more than what Port Moresby city requires. The capacity that Port Moresby city requires at present is about 120 megawatts and we are barely meeting that, so the 75 megawatts will surely meet the demands of Port Moresby city.

Mr Deputy Speaker, because we are also producing gas up in the Highlands we can for the first time supply gas to the Hela Province after living in the darkness for thousands of years. Although we are the owners of the resources the Opposition may not share the same sentiments.

Mr Deputy Speaker, on the 2nd March, 2015, I will be switching on a switch that will turn on power for 24 hours in Tari. Also, in September, I will light up all the other townships

in the Hela Province. We will also come to Kikori when the Member for Kikori starts working with Government.

Mr Speaker, we are providing almost four megawatts of power in Tari while the additional four megawatts we are getting from Barrick. This is because eight megawatts of power is enough power to supply Tari, Hela, Southern Highlands and Western Highlands Provinces. We are addressing these issues because demand is urgent.

Therefore, with regards to P'nyan which the Opposition Leader is talking about the license to develop has been given to ExxonMobil, Oil Search and all the development partners including the State.

10/08

The license was issued almost 15 years ago and this Government is not giving them something they already own.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the development of P'nyang under the MOU is very clear and they must follow the *Oil and Gas Act*. That means that development forums will be held and negotiations with the landowners will be held. Negotiations with the State will also be done so that we will not give them on a golden plate to take away.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we want them to develop P'nyang gas fields so that Papua New Guinea can also use it to develop the domestic market.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we need to establish a petrochemical industry in this country because this will create employment. We are also encouraged by the discussions we are holding with Mitsubishi and other experienced operators out of Japan who are now giving the Government full documentations regarding the development of the petrochemical industry in Papua New Guinea. We are trying to encourage ExxonMobil and their development partners to develop P'nyang so that gas is made available for that industry.

Mr Deputy Speaker, negotiations will be concluded under the *Oil and Gas Act*.

Mr Deputy Speaker, regarding the ownership of the power, it will be owned by PNG Power and not by Exxon Mobil or any other private investor. It will be owned by the people of this country through PNG Power.

Mr Deputy Speaker, ExxonMobil is only supplying the gas to that generator. The generators and everything will be owned by our company. Exxon Mobil will own it for five years and then we will overtake the operation from there. They will only provide management and we pay for the cost of the gas.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the pricing of gas is determined by international prices. In fact, we have squeezed the price down to whatever formula which is nine per cent of Japanese Crude Oil Pricing (JPC). This is the international standard that everybody pays for.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we are getting cheaper pricing because transportation costs are not added. We are will be getting gas right here and as a result the cost that is going to be saved by PNG Power is between 40 to 50 per cent of fuel costs today. Therefore, I think this Government would be very silly not to accept this kind of pricing.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we are not giving P'nyang away for free development. The development of P'nyang will be done properly but this arrangement will give this country pricing which will be cheaper than what we are paying for today.

Mr Deputy Speaker, on the issue about the eroding of competition, again the Opposition Leader is just criticizing the issue and is not telling the facts. The Government's position is very clear; we want competition in the industry. We don't want a single operator to dominate the industry. That is why we are encouraging TOTAL to develop the Elk and Antelope fields. We are also encouraging the other operators like Talisman and others to operate Stanley and other stranded gas fields. This is so that they can be competitive so that we can have access to competitive pricing to develop the domestic petrochemical industry.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we will be working close with TOTAL, who has just won the arbitration court case in London. They have legal and rightful ownership of being an operator of those fields and we will work close with them to bring it to the final investment decision so that we can be able to develop more trains that will put PNG as one of the leading exporters of oil and gas in the region.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I can assure the Honourable Opposition Leader that the ownership will belong to PNG Power.

Regarding the last question on the gas flare, Mr Speaker, I am not a chemical expert to understand the integral balances of the chemical formulas about gas flares and so forth. But from what I can understand my good friend the Opposition Leader is an engineer and therefore understands it better than I do.

Mr Don Polye – Point of Order! Mr Deputy Speaker, can I just remind the Prime Minister again not to come below the belt in personalising me.

(Members laughter)

Mr Don Polye – I explained clearly that gas flares are gas waste used by the industry on-site to flare up the gas to remove waste gases. They also use the waste at the field and that is the gas that we must charge them for commercial reasons.

11/08

My question is not a technical one but a straight forward commercial question. An accountant should be able to answer the question and since the Prime Minister is an accountant he should then be able to answer the question.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

No, I think that the Opposition Leader misunderstood me. I only want to play with him above the belt not below the belt.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Mr Deputy Speaker, Let me say this, I was only complimentary in my statement because he understands chemical balances better than I do.

Mr Deputy Speaker, let me say this about the gas flare. From what I understand, there are chemical components which are dangerous. They are like wastes in the system that need to be cleared and that is why they do the flaring.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I will leave that issue with the experts but I will also find out a bit more from our Petroleum and Energy Department to give us some information about this.

Mr Deputy Speaker, nevertheless, when we are dealing with international companies like ExxonMobil who have got the world highest standards regarding environmental issues, I think that they know what they are doing. Nevertheless, we will work closely with them so that we will make it safer for our communities.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Question proposed –

That the grievances be noted.

Ms LOUJAYA KOUZA (Lae) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for this opportunity to be able to add to the Honourable Minister for National Planning's response to the questions raised by the Governor for Morobe with regards to the biometric roll out in the Lae district.

Allow me to clarify first that whilst as the former Minister for Community Development my team from within the Department were instrumental in ensuring compliance in my intention to secure at the district level, and the community development functions at that time of civil registry, pension and the roll out to the elderly, disability and the needed knowledge of the population categories of youth, women and children.

Mr Deputy Speaker, before the move of the Civil Registry Office to National Planning the formulation of legislation to cover both at macro and micro levels activities in my district as a pilot project needed to be had. And then later on the lending of that support to National Planning when the amalgamation and move took place.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Governor for Morobe cannot plead ignorance of the approval and release of funds above the district JDBPC ceiling. The approval was given by the CSTB provincial which his acting district administrator was the chairman.

Mr Deputy Speaker, there was nothing sinister about the intent that was to identify our population categories in the 23 ward areas for purposes for development and planning.

Mr Deputy Speaker, to date the report has been given to National Planning to look at and see where the gaps are that can be covered when they do complete their rounds of the various districts. And again, in compliance, the last part that needs to be had really is a handing over by the service provider of the relevant data needs to be utilised by the disciplinary forces in Lae district. What needs to be handed over to the currently established District Development Authority and what needs to be handed over to the Provincial Government? So, that is what we are waiting to do within the month of March.

So, I appreciate the Honourable Governor for Morobe's interest in what is happening in Lae. Lae is a part of the Morobe Province and we are not autonomous and I would appreciate if the Honourable Governor would work closely with me. Let us stop fighting each other in

the media and understand that we need to develop an understanding of the influx and outflow of people that belong to Lae district and those that do not belong to belong to Lae district and those that are sitting in areas where the government cannot bring basic services into.

12/04

We need to be able to understand our people groups and my particular interest is in the area of community development and enhancement of the population category group. Anything above that such as voting was not the intent of that pilot project.

Mr Speaker, when you name something as a pilot project you know that it is subject to success or failure. It is not something we can take to the courts and win a court case on. And Mr Speaker, there is no personal agenda with regards to this. It is a development agenda, driven and understood that we as members of particular districts need to take ownership and I cannot deliver the development agenda of this Government without understanding my population categories. I would have appreciate Governors support and help from now onwards. Thank God for you.

Mr MICHAEL MALABAG (Moresby North West –Minister for Health) – Very good morning to all.

My people of Motu Koita have asked me to raise this issue in this grievance session here today, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Let me thank the Honourable Deputy Speaker for giving me this opportunity to speak. I am the Member for Moresby North-West and I speak now on the killings in the Motu Koitabu villages of Hanuabada and Tatana which form part of my constituency. It has been 35 days since Sale Naime Tom of Tatana village was killed allegedly by Police officers after they allegedly took him out of his village and put him in a police vehicle drove him away alive only to have his lifeless body dumped at the Port Moresby General Hospital morgue some hours later. It has been 29 days since the Hanuabada village market was raided allegedly by Police officers who assaulted villagers mostly women who buy and sell at the market. It has been 29 days since Nicholas Rarua and Toka Gaudi were killed allegedly by police officers. They were both unharmed and were gunned down in broad day light for no apparent reason.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the blood of these three young men cries out for justice. We as leaders of this great nation must not turn a deaf ear to this cry.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I stand before this honourable House on behalf of my people of Hanuabada and Tatana. I want the Police Commissioner to clarify, whether the police officers who were allegedly involved in this incident have been identified and when are they going to be suspended from duty and relieve of their fire arms, pending completion of the investigations.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the peaceful loving people of Hanuabada and Tatana have been going about their daily lives, however they need to know the latest developments on what has happened.

Mr Speaker, I understand this arrest can take time depending on investigations but I have advised that suspensions can be carried out immediately.

Mr Deputy Speaker I would like to convey to my honourable colleagues not only in Government but in the Opposition that the people of Hanuabada and Tatana and their nearby communities have the utmost faith in our O'Neill led Government. We have seen and felt the effect of the roadblocks that they set up in the wake of these events. They only lifted the road blocks because they had belief in our Government to do the right thing. Twelve days ago a group of Hanuabada village leaders presented a petition to our Prime Minister. The petition was signed by at least 4000 members of the community. A two weeks time frame was prepared for the Government to prepare a response to the petition.

13/08

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am aware that this deadline for this response is this coming Monday, 23 February 2015, which marks exactly one month to the day, Nicholas Rarua and Gaudi Toka were murdered.

I, strongly believe, Mr Deputy Speaker, that this honourable Parliament as the nation's highest authority must also be informed regarding the progress of the petitions responses by the Government. We have already seen the effects of the actions under taken by angry villagers from the Hanubada, Tatana and Baruni areas. We saw the effects on the city's economy when the roads were blocked. Mr Deputy Speaker, we must move forward in peace and reconciliation and with the view of seeing justice prevail.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the villages of Hanubada, Tatana and the wider Motu-Koitabu Community are waiting for our responses to the petition, we do not want the situation to regress but to progress.

Finally, the issue of police brutality is a national security issue and we cannot have rock services of the State running around with Government issued firearms and Government vehicles terrorising the citizens of this country. I invite my brothers and sisters in this honourable Parliament to condemn this culture police brutality openly.

Mr Deputy Speaker, what kind of message are we sending out to our brothers in Pacific Nations who are preparing to send their sporting ambassadors to our country for the South Pacific Games and our Leaders of APEC Nations who will visit our country in 2018?

Mr Deputy Speaker, our Government that I serve must now take drastic and decisive action to address this issue for the sake of Sale Naime Tom, Nicholas Rarua, Toka Gaudi and every person known and un-known who have been affected by police brutality.

Thank you.

Mr MARK MAIPAKAI (Kikori) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

I also rise to express some grievances.

Firstly, in support of the Health Minister's debate on the issue affecting the Motu-Koitabuan's in relation to betelnut and killing two innocent Papuans. On that same issue the police have shot a Goilala woman and the identity of the policeman is not known as yet. What more this nation what out of Papuans, the Motu-Koitabu people? This Parliament is built on the Motu-Koitabu land and they are very harmless and not aggressive people, they don't take lives and don't block roads. I hope the NCD Governor is here and my view of supporting them is you have friends in every Motu-Koitabu village. I want the NCD Governor to be present and the best way out is fence all the Motu-Koitabu villages and allow their own village police to mend their police station and build a court house to hear their own cases and any major issues hand it over to the national police.

You are the Member for NCD and you must ensure that enough security is provided.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Member for Kikori, don't point fingers.

Mr Labi Amaiu – Point of Order! In Hanuabada there are a lot of intermarriages and Kikoris also are part of Hanuabada as well. We should not be going around pointing fingers.

14/08

The issue is currently handled by the Department of Police so we must not only talk about the Papuans but other ethnic groups living there.

Mr MARK MAIPAKAI –Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Regardless of what group you belong to here, let us consider the village of Hanuabada. Whoever lives there is regarded as being from there. I withdraw what I said if you have misunderstood where I am coming in from.

What I am trying to say is that allow them to provide their own security and let their own village police take charge of the law and order situations. In that way they are comfortable to handle their own problems.

I don't want to dwell into my brother Governor's case but I have an issue with Mr Potape. He is another prisoner of the state, who has appealed to the system. And because the justice system did not agree to his bail application, and how do we justify his case as to whether he should attend the Parliament session or not as this is important and must be addressed.

Mr James Marape –Point of Order! Matters such as this and those before the Courts are not to be raised in Parliament.

Mr MARK MAIPAKAI – It is true but the precedence set will affect everyone seated here.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Can I suggest through the Chair for a concessional reference to be held on this case as it is very important? We might have similar situation and thank you that Gulf has made history to have our Governor back here, what about the people of Tari Pori.

Their Member is under the same fate, he is a convicted prisoner that has never been granted bail and therefore he is should not be allowed in here.

Mr Patrick Pruaitch –Point of Order! The Member for Kikori should not jump up and down. The Member he is referring to is sitting right here. He should think clearly before making his statements.

Mr MARK MAIPAKAI – I withdraw my statements for making reference to the Member for Komo-Magarima and many of us maybe facing the same fate.

Mr Jim Kas – Point of Order! The Governor of Gulf is a Member of this Parliament. Can he stop making references?

Mr MARK MAIPAKAI – We have made history, nothing of this nature has ever happened in the Commonwealth before. All I am saying that we have another Member who is a prisoner of State but because he is not on bail, how do we justify his case as to whether he should be in Parliament or not? Who will clarify this and what sort of precedence are we setting?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER –Member, you should not be raising this issue because it is before the Courts.

Sir MICHAEL SOMARE (East Sepik) – I want to say here that, I agree on the issue being raised. I think the lawyers are not really well versed to explain to the judges. When they explain to the judges, they are creating conflicting situation.

This is because one set of lawyers let the Governor for Gulf come back into Parliament after his conviction and another did not grant bail and let the other Member still take his place in Parliament.

There is something wrong with the law, so the Attorney-General must look into these decisions and cases where they have gone wrong because I think something is not right with our Act.

15/08

The Honourable Governor and the Honourable Francis Potape are State prisoners, they are no longer Members of Parliament that is why the Attorney General needs to stand up and explain the verses.

Now, I will talk about my grievance –

Mr Ano Pala – Point of Order! I am not standing up, Mr Deputy Speaker, to make an explanation. I just want to point out that the Chair has been very clear on this matter, that the matter is sub-judiciary.

We can argue about it here on the Floor of Parliament but like I as the Attorney General has taken a position, the Deputy Prime Minister has taken a decision and the Governor has also made his own views and I think the Opposition has the wrong views but the Speaker has made it very clear that it is a matter sub-judiciary.

So, we should leave it at that and have no further discussions on that, let us respect the authority of the Chair.

Thank you.

Sir MICHEAL SOMARE – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

I want to talk about my grievances but it is good that the Attorney General has explained so later he can correct it and correct the Courts too, sometimes they are wrong.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to clear myself as I have heard and read on the media that the Minister for Sports and the Minister for Planning made some criticism about me for the question that I asked yesterday.

I was just trying to find out about the sporting facilities, like the swimming pool and the stadiums that are not yet complete and July is nearing. I asked a good question, I did not criticize them of being in the Government or when I was in the Government. I did not do anything, when I was in the Government I did not have any money but I prepared a Big basket that Mr Peter O'Neill and Patrick Pruaitch came in and shared it among you all, shame on you!

I am just saying so, do not point fingers at me, you young leaders

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Governor, do not point fingers.

Sir MICHEAL SOMARE – Sorry, Mr Speaker I withdraw my statement.

Mr Deputy Speaker, when we talk about debate we debate. I am trying to explain my complaint about the two Ministers who went to the media and are defending themselves saying that they are doing the right thing and I know they are doing the right thing.

I was just asking about the sporting facilities like the swimming pool and the stadium, I have seen that they are not yet completed.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in 1969 I was the Chief Minister and together with the Government Administration of Australia we conducted the Pacific Games and it was done very well. So, I don't see the reason why now we have a lot of money and we are complaining that the facilities will not complete on time.

It would have been better if they just gave us a brief schedule of when the facilities will be complete because the public are wondering whether they will be ready in time for the games.

Thank you.

Mr WERA MORI (Chuave) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

I Thank you for recognizing the 45 000 people of Chuave. Before I go on to my grievances, on behalf of the people of Chuave, I would like to convey my sincere apologies to the people of Motu-Koitabu where the innocent people lost their lives and I am strongly with the Minister of Moresby South and the Minister for Health to deal accordingly with those policemen who are involved.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I just want to add a few comments on this biometrics, I think on both sides all arguments have been fair but one off the things we need to move on about biometrics is any data that is gathered or inputted into the system, that is the data that is going to go out so the amount of the quality we get is what you put in. You must know that the world is changing and we are in a modern era where it is done by technology, like in America, Australia and other advanced countries.

16/08

We should support and promote the idea because it is a new concept.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to elaborate on three issue in this grievance debate. Firstly, I wish to commend the government for introducing the free education policy in Papua New Guinea which has released all the school fee burdens.

Mr Deputy Speaker, but there is a danger that we may be creating lazy Papua New Guineans or a lazy society because when people realize that they are not liable to pay fees they do not fee responsible to pay for school fees. They turn to do other things.

I cannot speak for other electorates in Papua New Guinea. However, in Chuave people no long attend to their coffee gardens instead they spend time gambling because they know the government is paying for the children's school fees. So that is a danger. I do not want to

see people neglecting coffee gardens instead they are harvesting kaukau to sell in Port Moresby or Lae. So we have to reform the free tuition fee policy so that in future we must make the parent to be liable to some extent.

Mr Deputy Speaker, at the elementary and primary levels, the parents must be responsible. We now have a healthy cash flow, but there will come a time when that will cease and we do not intend to put pressure on the parents. So the government can only look at subsidizing the school fees at 60% and let the parents take care of the rest.

The government should only fund more on the Tertiary Institution because they are the cream and the best of the students who have come through the system to be trained at the highest level in this country. This is where we should focus on. If we are to introduce free tuition policy, it must be at the university levels because by merits they have strived up and are selected to go to those tertiary institutions.

At the moment some institution charge 6 000 or more and therefore, there is no point of sending a child to school who work hard only to be defeated at the top because of huge margin in school fees.

I urge the government to consider this seriously so there is some form of intervention so that our tertiary students who deserve to be there on merit must, their parents must be relieved.

Secondly, Mr Deputy Speaker, Papua New Guinea is a Christian country. We have gone ahead and removed the carvings here. However, today's front page in the *Post Courier* says 'prostitutes fight over 33. This country does not belong to the prostitutes. So where did *Post Courier* get this idea from?

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Bible clearly says that we should not compromise with sin. We might as well burn all the night clubs in this country.

(Members interjecting)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Order!

Mr WERI MORI – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

This is a good lesson for those of your frequenting the night clubs. So Mr Deputy Speaker, we must amend the Constitution so to give effect and remove the provision of Papua New Guinea is a Christian country instead we contradict by saying that where we advocate

for the freedom of religion. So we must declare that Papua New Guinea is truly a Christian country.

It does not make sense if we are to remove carvings here which were inherited from our forefathers. If we are to remove our inheritance than we might as well remove the all lot and amend the *Constitution*.

Lastly, the environmental issues; Mr Deputy Speaker, government must fund the Department of Environment and Conservation adequately and effectively so that they can be in a position to conduct baseline survey on all the waterways and drainage system in Papua New Guinea. They must know the difference between a trash hold which can be used to measure the level of any pollution entering the system.

This morning during question time, the Governor of East New Britain talked about the winding down of the mine in East New Britain Province. However, it would be better if the government has an independent data which can be weighed against.

17/08

Mr Deputy Speaker, we must amend the *Constitution* and remove the provision where it says Papua New Guinean is a Christian Country and then we contradict ourselves where we advocate for the freedom of religion we will remove it and say that Papua New Guinea is truly a Christian country.

This will be better because there is no meaning if we remove carvings and traditional objects that we have inherited from our ancestors and for fathers, if we remove them then we might as well take it all the way and amend the *Constitution*.

Lastly, one of the most talked about issue that keeps popping up again and again is the environment issues.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Government must fund the Department of Environment and Conservation effectively and adequately so, that they must be able to be in a position to conduct a baseline survey on all the waterways and drainage systems in Papua New Guinea. They must know what a threshold is so that they can use this to measure the level of pollution going into the system.

This morning during question time the Governor of East New Britain said about the mine in East New Britain the wild dog* it is true, but, it will be much better if the Government have its own data so it can weigh it against any activity at the potential of the contamination into our river system.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I cannot see the light up there but I think I should stop here.
Thank you.

Motion – That grievances be noted – agreed to.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament at it's rising adjourn to 26th May, 2015 at 2p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 12:15.p.m.