

FOURTH DAY

Friday 29 May 2015
DRAFT HANSARD

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LEE SIROTE

Acting Principal Parliamentary Reporter

FOURTH DAY

Friday 29 May 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

Mr Speaker again took the Chair at 10.30 a.m., and invited the Member for Rabaul, **Dr Allan Marat** to say Prayers:

‘Sovereign God our Heavenly Father, we thank you for the prompting of your holy spirit. We come to you this morning to commit our meeting into your hands. We come to you, Lord Jesus Christ for your forgiveness as we confess that we have disobeyed you in many ways: in our thoughts, words and actions and we pray for your forgiveness. We pray for the cleansing with your powerful cleansing blood. Cleanse our spirit, our hearts, our bodies, our souls, our minds and our entire being. Set us right with you this morning.

We are here representing your people. You have called us according to your will and purpose in order to serve your people. As we deliberate this morning we pray sovereign God that you shall help us. Your holy spirit will continue to guide our thoughts as we debate issues this morning and express grievances. And we shall do them openly in your presence. This is our prayer we ask in no other names but in the precious name of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray. Amen’.

QUESTIONS

Mr NIXON MANGAPE - Thank you, Mr Speaker. I direct my questions to the Minister for Petroleum and Energy.

My questions are:

(1) Can the Minister confirm to this Parliament why ExxonMobil is exerting extreme pressure by avoiding normal license approval process by asking the Minister to grant them a petroleum development license (PDL) over the P'nyang Gas Project?

(2) Why is ExxonMobil dictating terms for the State by setting June 2015 as the date when they should be granted the PDL?

(3) Can the Minister also explain why ExxonMobil is pushing the Minister to grant them the PDL in June 2015 when in fact, they will not develop the P'nyang Gas Field until 2030?

(4) Can the Minister explain how his government will manage landowner expectations in the next fifteen years because he has to meet with the landowners to discuss a better package in the development forum before granting the PDL?

(5) Why is ExxonMobil proposing to conduct the P'nyang Gas Project as PNG LNG Project and making them become part of the foundation LNG project when, there are too many landowner benefit issues and serious concerns of the deals and where the State has forgone significant benefits and domestic gas use opportunities.

(6) Can the Minister explain whether it is demonstrative for ExxonMobil to demand the granting of a PDL over the P'nyang project as a condition before it can make gas available to the State for power generation in Port Moresby?

Mr Speaker, we know that that P'nyang Gas Field will not be developed until after 2030

02/04

(7) How will the power generation be linked to P'nyang?

This is because the peak gas for power generation in Port Moresby will obviously not come from P'nyang Field.

(8) What will be the price of gas that the State proposes to buy from ExxonMobil?

(9) Can the Minister also confirm or deny that the price will be an international price that will add cost to businesses and will kill the SMEs and small income earners?

The Department of Petroleum and Energy and its Secretary provide sound advice to you as the Minister, and as far as I am concerned, the PNG LNG Project Landowners are still waiting for the royalty payments since ExxonMobil first took full scale social mapping and landowner advocacy studies.

(10) For the benefit of the people of PNG, what is your position on PMIZ Project in Madang with regards to the petition tabled on the Floor of Parliament by the Honourable Ken Fairweather?

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr NIXON DUBAN – Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I would like to thank the Member for Lagaip-Porgera for his series of esteemed questions regarding P'nyang.

Mr Speaker, as most of you will be aware by now, the Government had made a decision in taking an intervention at the higher end of our country's energy sector. This is by considering Port Moresby as being one of the most affected cities of this country, therefore, the Government must address its power generation issues. Our Prime Minister has made an intervention which has attracted a lot of criticism. We made this decision while being mindful of the South Pacific Games that is also coming up.

Mr Speaker, P'nyang is a lucrative block and we have made some decisions in that regard.

Mr Speaker, we have a State team who is in charge of reviewing of the licensing. P'nyang is no different to any other block that is before the scrutiny of the department. We would therefore like to assure the Member that most of the issues that he raised will be answered accordingly today.

Mr Speaker, firstly, P'nyang is a block that ExxonMobil and the co-ventures also own licenses around that current PNG LNG Project. There have been many issues that have been raised and debates over whether P'nyang should be a standalone project. On record, P'nyang holds about 1.1 to 2.6 TCF.

Mr Speaker, therefore, it cannot qualify on record to become a separate train. It therefore has to be parked, linked or tied to the current PNG LNG Project and that is based on the economics of the projects.

Mr Speaker, it was to go beyond 350 TCF, and then it can qualify to be a separate train. The infrastructure around Western Province and the need to develop P'nyang will be costly if it's a standalone project. And so, it becomes part of a decision to commit that particular block under the PNG LNG Agreement, clause 4.7, which indicates strongly that those fields around the current PNG LNG Project owned by the same interest which now control the PNG LNG Project must be part of the

existing project. Therefore, P'nyang is an extension project and cannot become a separate project as per the PNG LNG Agreement that the State has an obligation to honour.

Mr Speaker, based on that we have decided to negotiate with ExxonMobil that with those committed fields that are already pre-sold to international customers, we are now asking ExxonMobil to free up some of those gas in P'nyang for now until we have an insurance policy.

03/04

Those gas that will be expected to come from Hides, Gobe and Angore are committed fields. At the moment P'nyang is yet to produce gas and the negotiations between the State and the developers are still ongoing.

The P'nyang project will be developed around 2032 according to analysis made by many of our departmental staff and independent parties. We are also mindful about the pressure of the landowners. We do not want P'nyang to be developed around 2032. We are asking ExxonMobil to make those decisions about developing P'nyang as early as possible.

Mr Speaker, one of the commitment that ExxonMobil has made is to undertake front-end engineering design by 2016, and in 2017 they have committed to announce final investment decisions which is a bonus to the project being developed. So you are looking at an earlier phase of 2020 and 2021 for P'nyang which will be like Juha. It will be developed around that period. To have a FEED in 2017 will mean P'nyang will be developed much earlier than 2032.

Mr Speaker, in regard to issues surrounding landowner benefits, P'nyang is part of an important project that this nation governs under the *Oil and Gas Act*, and the State is obliged to ensure that P'nyang undertakes development forums. There are ministerial determinations to ensure that landowners are properly given their rightful benefits as part of the project.

The power that we will get out of this arrangement for Port Moresby is an important intervention. The power that will come as a result of this arrangement is equivalent to 75 megawatts. That is the MOU that we agreed for ExxonMobil to provide to Port Moresby.

I want to assure the Member for Porgera that P'nyang will be developed. All the processes that are part of the granting of licence for P'nyang will be complied with. There will be no deviation and I also want to assure the people of Western Province that all the necessary arrangement and requirements will be next to ensure that PDL is done properly and complied to forthwith.

Mr Speaker, in relation to PMIZ I don't think I am the right minister to answer those questions so I will leave it to the Minister for Commerce and Industry to respond to those issues regarding PMIZ.

Supplementary Question

Mr DON POLYE – I am happy to hear that the Minister is giving the commitment that all process will be complied with and we support the Minister and the Government in ensuring such projects do have the processes fully complied with.

The Minister stated that the TCF or resource envelope in P'nyang is not enough to build another train. My questions are as follows:

(1) How does he know that we do not have enough TCF and if there is any, can he make it clear to us? Is it an independent study that gives the resource envelope or was it done by the company itself?

(2) If we continue to have individual fields separated from the others rather than putting them together to develop in a major way, we might have big investors like ExxonMobil continue to mislead the State into giving all our resources to fit into the existing facilities like the trains they have already. So we will continue to make use of their pipeline and their facilities rather than creating different programme or an establishment for the benefit of the State.

In other words, you will be only following the leadership of the investor to maximising their benefits at the cost of minimising our benefits that should come to the State. You keep on saying that we need to develop this and if we do not do it in the way the Government has envisaged then we might not have gas by 2032.

04/04

(3) Is it very important that we develop all our resources desperately, and are you predicting that the market will be lost by 2032. The consumer market will be here, so can you explain this issue properly please?

Mr NIXON DUBAN – Mr Speaker, I thank the Leader of Opposition for raising these concerns regarding the reserves that are already there.

Mr Speaker, P'nyang is a block and the Department of Petroleum and Energy, ExxonMobil and other companies who are stakeholders in the industry are aware of reserves in almost all the blocks that we own in the country. There are no new information. For those explorations that are done, it is compulsory requirement that those companies must submit work programs and reports to the department responsible.

I am well informed of the reserves contained in P'nyang.

Mr Speaker, I want to put on record for the benefit of the Opposition Leader that the exploration work done in P'nyang is not in depth. There are only three exploration wells that have been drilled and no appraisal wells drilled as yet on record to certify the reserves to reach a train, and that's the reason why its parked at 1.1 to 2.6. We cannot change that record. Unfortunately, we are going to face a lot of difficulty in trying to claim that it is able to qualify as a single train. The department has got the mandate to certify all the wells and all the reserves in this country. And it has already confirmed and if we don't have a department that will be able to perform this function then we don't have control over the reserves that we have in the country. The Department of Petroleum and Energy is taking charge of it. We all now can see how we have handled the PNG LNG projects. This department is mandated to carryout various inspections and provide information on the safety, work and data and other related information to verify reserves.

Mr Speaker, I don't want the Opposition Leader to doubt our department's ability because they have records to confirm it. They are a significant part of the industry in terms of being a regulator also.

Mr Speaker, the other issue that he raised in relation to rushing the decision on P'nyang, I want to assure the Opposition Leader that there is no rush. It's an economic decision that we are making in order to allow gas to be available. In the past when we started the negotiations on the PNG LNG projects, we failed to look at the domestic market obligation. We could have made gas available for Hela and Southern Highlands and the country as a whole. And we also failed to introduce petro-chemical to benefit from the domestic market obligation. This Government has made decisions to correct some of those issues. Based on that, we are making decision to ensure that when we give P'nyang away those committed gas that we see being exported as cargos, some of it must come to produce power for Port Moresby.

Mr GISUWAT SINIWAN – Mr Speaker, I want to direct my question to the Minister for Police but since he is not here, I wish to ask the Prime Minister.

The police housing problem in the country is a big issue and it has been well addressed by this Government. A housing project was implemented in Bumbu Barracks in Lae, which shares a border with my electorate. The houses that were built are made of low- grade materials and the finished products are of poor quality. Some houses are yet to be completed at this stage.

(1) Is the Prime Minister aware that the houses at Bumbu Police Barracks are of low standards?

(2) What measure is the Department of Police taking against the contractor who has not completed the job?

(3) Does the Department of Police have any plans to renovate all police personnel houses throughout the country, including Bumbu Barrack?

05/04

(4) Does the Department of Police have any plans also to upgrade the roads within the barracks in the country and possibly seal the roads in Bumbu Police Barrack?

Lastly, Mr Speaker, my next question is about the death of a Singaporean businessman Mr Tang, owner of Morobe Stationery, who was murdered on 3 January 2015. We have seen in the media reports that there is an investigation by the Police Department.

(5) What is the latest finding of the investigation?

(6) Have the culprits been brought to justice or not?

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Mr Speaker, I thank the honourable Member for Nawae for these questions about police housing programmes in the country.

Yes, we are aware of the housing issue. Police houses are being constructed right around the country but many of them are not being completed.

Mr Speaker, this Government has invested quite a substantial amount of money over the last two years as part of the police modernisation programme. And we have allocated enough resources so that we can start rolling out the police houses in many barracks throughout the country. We are aware that police houses have deteriorated because of lack of maintenance. And many of our police officers have not been accommodated well for them to carry out their duties effectively.

Mr Speaker, as part of this modernisation programme in Port Moresby we are now about to complete 150 houses up at Bomana and these houses will be ready for occupation very soon. Also a few houses are being built around the Morata and Waigani areas.

Mr Speaker, those houses are yet to be completed just like the house down in Bumbu Barrack.

Mr Speaker, the thing is that this programme is managed by the Police Department itself and one of the issues is that we have had no reports or briefings whatsoever given to the government on the modernisation programme that is being rolled out by the Police Department. We have asked the Minister to instruct the new Commissioner for a report on the status of the programme.

We understand that some of the houses being built are of low standard and of course the contractors have not completed many of them. We intend to take action on that once we receive the report, but our commitment as a government is to improve law and order issues in the country, including the working conditions of police officers and provision of proper housing for them is going to continue. We will continue to roll that out this year. We will continue to allocate more resources and funding next and I think it is only fair that we look after our disciplinary forces, not only the Police Force but the Defence Force and CIS as well.

We are undertaking similar investments into Defence and CIS and over the next two or three years you will see a remarkable improvement in the way we provide housing for our police officers.

We intend to move many of the police officers who are now in other barracks for example in Port Moresby into the new houses and then we will either renovate or build new houses in the locations that they have vacated.

We will continue to have this building programme rolled out but we are also concerned about the quality of the work that is being done.

Mr Speaker, I want to also say that the roads that he is talking about in the Bumbu Police Barrack, many of us know, Mr Speaker, Lae City roads are now in really good shape and that programme will continue to be rolled out. We are now finishing off the main roads in the city. Most of it has been completed except Milfordhaven Road going to the main wharf and part of Unitech going down to Bumayong and Telikom. Those are the last of the main roads to be completed and the Government has already gone out to tender and it is now with the technical people to award those tenders to the successful contractors.

06/04

Once those roads are finished I can assure the people of Morobe and Lae City that we will start extending the cementing program to the side streets including residential areas and of course into major areas like Bumbu Police Barracks and all other major State asset areas.

In turn, Mr Speaker, over the next three to four years, Lae city roads will be one of the best roads in the country because of the cementing program that this Government has embarked on. I think, many of us who are visiting Lae today, despite some critics, can be rest assured that Lae is changing and as part of that change the Police Barracks will be also attended to.

Mr Speaker, on the last question regarding the Singaporean businessman, Mr Tan, I know that the investigations are continuing but I am not privy to the details of it but I am also aware that in cases like this, and similar cases in Hanuabada, the Police Commissioner has come out recently saying he will give priority to investigating those cases.

Mr Speaker, he said he will bring in Police men and women from elsewhere to come in and investigate the cases so that it can be concluded in a fair manner.

Mr Speaker, I want to assure the Honourable Member that I will also bring this to the attention of the Police Minister and the Police Department so that they can also attend to the issues that he has raised.

Ms LOUJAYA KOUZA – Just an addition for the sake of the Member for Nawae, in relation to the commitment from the District Development Authority towards the sealing of Bumbu road, the paper work is complete and we are just waiting for the funding for that.

Mr SPEAKER – Do you have a question?

Ms LOUJAYA KOUZA – I am just adding information on what was said.

Mr SPEAKER – You are out of order. You can raise those at the Grievance Debate at a later time.

Mr KERENGA KUA – Thank you, Mr Speaker, my question goes to the Minister for Petroleum. It is related to the series of questions that he answered previously but they are new questions.

I am aware that we have in our existing gas agreement with ExxonMobil, the State and other joint venture partners, a provision for a small quantity of gas produced under this agreement or arrangement to be made available to meet domestic market requirements.

Mr Speaker, the second part of that same provision goes on to also say that the price at which we obtain that gas will be no less than international market price and that's the part that I have a problem with.

What difference does it make to us or PNG Power getting gas as the same volume of gas under this agreement from our locally produced gas or going away and getting it away from Sydney, Melbourne or Singapore because the price is the same. We have a situation with Hangjung Power producing power down at Kanudi, they produce power and sell it to PNG as the sole purchaser at K1 per kilowatt and then PNG Power sells it to its customers at K0.70 per kilowatt. PNG Power is subsidizing K0.30 per kilowatt and it's selling at a loss so we have always been wondering why PNG Power is forever broke, well, that is one of the areas that has a big gap where money leaks out.

We need assurance from our Minister. While he has the opportunity to go out there and negotiate with the joint venture partners, can he do his best to redo that particular price mechanism so that we buy the gas for domestic market purposes at 20-25 percent less than international price so that we can pass that benefit onto local consumers?

07/04

At the end of the day, we are talking about the minute quantity compared to the volume going out to the international market under the Gas Sales and Purchase Agreement. I cannot see why.

Mr SPEAKER –Honourable Member, can you ask your question, rather than make a statement.

Mr KERENGA KUA –I am just setting the foundation for the questions.

My questions are;

- (1) Is he going to negotiate for an amendment to that price formula in the agreement?
- (2) Will he ask for a 20-25 per cent discount based on the international market price, so that the benefit will be passed onto the consumers in Port Moresby, so that we do not end up with another Hangjung power situation?

It is simple as that, we have the negotiating opportunity now so let us do the right thing.

Mr NIXON DUBAN –Thank you, Member. We had for two days been questioned on the price and the answers given may not have been satisfactory. The MOU was signed between the Government and ExxonMobil in relation to the price. I have explained in detail last week, but I will just run through it for the benefit of the Member.

The gas that will be made available will be supplied from Hides and it is going to be about 10, 000 000 cubic feet.

We are buying about 18-21 toea per kilowatt which is much cheaper than Diesel that is currently available, which is about 80 toea per kilowatt hour. This is a more reasonable price as per our negotiation and we will expand and try to maintain the current status quo.

It is really an interesting area that we are now entering into by securing cheaper power that many of our governments in the past should have done. Eighteen to twenty-one toea is the price that the State has gainfully agreed to be the more reasonable price to use. And that is the price that will be applied for the purpose of gas coming into Port Moresby.

I want to assure the Member that the international price that he is referring to is well below and it is the price that is in the advantage of the Government and the people of Papua New Guinea.

Mr FRANCIS MARUS – My questions are directed to the Minister for Agriculture and Livestock. This is in relation to the questions raised yesterday to Minister for Trade and Commerce. After listening to what was said about huge sum of money given to East Sepik for the development of Oil Palm and then again K5 million given to reputed companies as stated;

- (1) What is the progress on the SSB, pricing formula?
- (2) When will the ban on poultry be lifted?

08/04

Mr ASSIK TOMMY TOMSCOLL – Mr Speaker, I thank the Member for Talasea for the two questions which relate to the ones asked earlier by the Leader of the Opposition.

I think the questions were adequately answered by the Minister for Trade and Industry. In fact, when this project was proposed, I was of the view that the Leader of the Opposition was a party to agreeing to it, so I will leave that issue at that point.

Mr Speaker, the first question raised is in relation to the pricing formula –

Mr Don Polye – Point of Order! Mr Speaker, I am doing my work here but he is mentioning my name, so where do I come in if it is to do with Talasea?

The Ministers and the Prime Minister love calling on me, it is an abuse of –

Mr SPEAKER – Your point of order is out of order. Honourable Minister, you may go ahead with your response.

Mr ASSIK TOMMY TOMSCOLL – Thank you, Mr Speaker, you would find that when the Member for Talasea was raising his questions he did pretext by a statement relating to the project in Yangoru, and I only made reference that the Leader of the Opposition is well versed with knowledge because he was a party in Government as Minister for Treasury and he allocated the money through the Budget. Thank you.

Mr Don Polye – Yes, I allocated the money when I was the Minister but now you are misusing the funds.

Mr ASSIK TOMMY TOMSCOLL – Mr Speaker, I shall proceed as the first question relates to SSB Pricing Formula.

Mr Speaker, two consultants were appointed; one was KPMG and the other was an independent consultant representing the State and he was Mr Paul Baker. The KPMG team completed the review and passed it to Mr Paul Baker who was the independent consultant appointed by the Government. He completed his review and passed on the document for reviewing of the recommendations to the Working Committee on commodities.

This Committee is chaired by the Chief Secretary and there are Board Members from ICCC and Treasury Department.

The document has been with the Committee for the last five to six months and we are still waiting for the findings to be made known. As soon as the document comes out of the office then I will be in a better position to state what has been in the findings and recommendations of that SSB.

Mr Speaker, the second question relates to the poultry ban I imposed on 5 April, 2015 on the importation of uncooked poultry meat or any poultry product from Australia.

Mr Speaker, let me say that Australia has a total ban of importation of any poultry product into Australia. For the same reason that they have banned importation of poultry products into Australia, I have also used the same basis to ban Australian poultry into Papua New Guinea.

Mr Speaker, the PNG Poultry Industry is worth K712 million annually and the Australia market in PNG is worth K100 million annually.

The ban immediately imposed has two effects; firstly, it immediately stops the money from going out of the country so the country does some savings and secondly this money is redirected into our own farmers and our own industries supply and this money will be used to recapitalise and expand the industry.

09/04

The industry directly employs 3500 workers and 650 000 people indirectly benefit from this industry. The imposition of this ban will create further employment and it will create further business for all our farmers who are mainly rural-based people living outside of the main towns.

Mr Speaker, I have considered that the bio-security of our Poultry Industry, national economy and the safety of our human health is far more important than entertaining or providing a market for some farmers in another country, therefore, I took that position.

The Government has also commissioned a review into the bio-security of the Poultry Industry in Papua New Guinea and whilst we await the outcome of these two reviews, I must say very clearly that in the long term, the vision of the Government should always be to protecting the bio-security of this country.

Mr Speaker, with that in view, I should state that this ban should remain indefinite. It is beneficial to our people and economy and so it is not my intention to barge. It will take very strong scientific argument to convince me to do otherwise, because this ban is based on science. It is not based on business and I will maintain that position and that is the position of the Government.

Supplementary Question

Mr SASINDRAN MUTHUVEL – Mr Speaker, this is supplementary to my Member's question.

In regard to that price formula review, new payout ratio;

- (1) Can the Minister explain why it is taking so long because 19 000 growers have been waiting since 2002?

In 2013, KPMG was funded to do this review and in May 2014, we are supposed to have this new payout ratio, but there is nothing to date.

- (2) Can the Minister also give assurance, since we have already off-loaded Provincial Government Shares back to Sime Darby, to support us in establishing a mini-mill for the growers in West New Britain Province?

Mr Speaker, regarding overcrowding, each oil palm block has turned into a Village. Previously, a block was meant for only one family but now there is more than 10 families living in it and that has caused a lot of law and order problems.

- (3) As a responsible National Government, what is the solution to this overcrowding issue in the Oil Palm blocks?

10/04

Mr ASSIK TOMMY TOMSCOLL - Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let me thank the Governor for his questions. Obviously, the Governor is always in touch with agriculture issues particularly the oil palm, because oil palm supports the livelihood of many of his people in West New Britain Province.

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of the reason of the delay. The composition of the committee is chaired by the Chief Secretary, officers from ICCC and the Treasury. They do not report to me directly and I have no authority over those departments and their committee. Therefore, I am not able to answer your question.

However, I would like to think that one of the main reasons for the delay is the health condition of the Chief Secretary. This may have contributed to no calling of that meeting.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, the Ministry supports the establishment of mini-mills in the oil palm industry. Having said that, while we want to build mini-mills, we must undertake studies so that these mills must not compromise the quality of the oil that will be extracted.

Mr Speaker, I have had discussions with the Governor on the possibility of establishing mills. I am sure the provincial government have sold out their shares in New Britain Oil Palm which will give them a new drive to partner the concept that I have floated so that we can progress into reality.

On the issues of overcrowding in the oil palm block, we should understand that these oil palm blocks were allotted into six hectare blocks many years ago. Of the six hectare blocks four hectares were supposed to be used for planting oil palm while two hectares for

residential purposes. This means to say that one can build his house and plant a garden in the backyard.

Mr Speaker, at that time when this concept was rolled out many of the families who applied were selected and resettled into those blocks. These were very small families. Maybe mother, father and one or two children. However, three generations have passed by and families have grown. They have lived on this block and if you consider seven children by three generations, obviously you are looking at more than 30 family members on one block inclusive of relatives.

So the usage of the amount of land is under pressure. In terms of what do we do with them, I think it is an issue of planning. The West New Britain Provincial Government would be a partner in providing the solution.

Mr Speaker, the last question relates to roads in the oil palm block. I remember that the World Bank provided 14 loans to Papua New Guinea. One of them was to construct, maintain and fix roads in the oil palm blocks.

Mr Speaker, West New Britain Province was the focus of this program. I also understand that, that program has been scrapped because the money which was meant to go to fix the roads running into village oil palm blocks were not used as intended. However, the money was channelled through the New Britain Oil Palm and preferred to use the money on their own plantations.

11/04

As a result, our village oil palm block holders did not benefit from this programme. With that, the World Bank scrapped the programme because it defeated the whole purpose just because the process in implementing it was not carried out.

Mr Speaker, again, the issues relating to the funding of the programme in Yangoru has been adequately answered, and the Governor's plea to consider his roads to be fixed from his block holders is a genuine concern. Therefore, I would like to ask the Governor to forward the proposal and scoping so that I could sponsor that submission into Cabinet and get answer from NEC.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, I hope that I have adequately answered the question.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr AIDE GANASI (South Fly) – I ask leave of the Chair to make a Personal Explanation regarding the Special Parliamentary Committee on Public Sector Reform with respect to the South Fly district.

Mr SPEAKER – Do you claim to have been misrepresented?

Mr AIDE GANASI – Yes, Sir!

Mr SPEAKER – Go ahead, leave is granted.

Mr AIDE GANASI – Mr Speaker, my personal explanation is in relation to two newspaper articles which were published on Monday's edition of *Post-Courier*. The two articles which I have here in my hand appeared on pages 3 and 6. The articles contained some representation which raised serious questions on my standing as Member of Parliament representing the people of South Fly.

Mr Speaker, I noted from the media report that the Honourable Member for Goroka in his capacity as Chairman of the Special Parliamentary Committee on Public Sector Reform and Service Delivery visited my electorate last week on a fact finding mission to enquire into health services provided by the Government.

Mr Speaker, what the Honourable Member for Goroka and Chairman of the Special Parliamentary Committee on Public Sector Reform and Service Delivery saw on the ground not only brought tears to his eyes, but encouraged especially the young people to rise and hold their members accountable for the lack of services in their areas.

The Honourable Chairman reckons that the state of affairs in my electorate is a result of my failures and non-performance as a Member of the Parliament and that I should be held accountable by the people.

Mr Speaker, firstly, I welcome the goodwill and gesture shown by the Honourable Chairman and committee members in choosing my electorate as a point of interest of their studies. It is good to have an eminent parliamentary body such as the committee that the Honourable Member chairs to visit my electorate and see for themselves the adverse hardships and struggles faced by my people.

Mr Speaker, the good Chairman and his Committee visited the South Fly electorate during my term as a Member of Parliament. Hence, it is only logical for him to blame me as an Open Member and hold me accountable for the hardships and suffering of my people. I, however, have some strong contentions with this point of view.

Mr Speaker, for instance, to what extent should or must I be held accountable for the current state of affairs in my electorate, which compelled the Honourable Member for Goroka into tears?

12/04

Mr Speaker, the current poor state of the electorate did not occur overnight. What the Chairman has seen are evidence of negligence by successive leaders and government systems over a very long period of time. It is a legacy of failures and non-performance I have inherited and left behind by my predecessors and successive provincial governments and provincial and district administrations.

Mr Speaker, it will take many more years and not just five years for me as an Open Member to resolve this problem. I will also require the support and cooperation of the provincial government and the public service machinery in the province to address the issue that the honourable Member for Goroka has highlighted.

It is unfair and way off mark for the Honourable Member to say that I should be held accountable without appreciating the underlying fact and reasons behind the state of appearance in South Fly.

Mr Speaker, this is only my second year as a Member of Parliament. Soon after my election in 2012, I was ousted in a Court of Dispute of Return and reinstated as a Member towards the end of 2013. In the short period that I have been the Member, I have done my bit to try and address some of the developmental issues affecting my people.

For instance, Daru Secondary School, the only secondary school in the entire South Fly electorate, was facing imminent closure when I intervened with funding for maintenance of school facilities and teachers' accommodation to enable our children to go to school and be educated.

My Joint District Budget and Priorities Committee has approved a number of impact projects in education, health, law and order, infrastructure and rural transportation sector including two school buses I bought in December and gave to the schools .

As Member and chairman I have approved projects and have committed funding through the Joint District Planning and Budget Priorities Committee but if projects are not

being implemented and services not being provided to the people then the question should be asked and directed to the implementing agencies which is the public services machinery in the district and the province.

Up to this date, as I speak, close to over K13 million of my DSIP Funds are still sitting idle in the district and treasury in Daru, even though this money has been earmarked for services and projects in my electorate. Mr Speaker, I ask you the following questions.

Is it my job as the Member to write and process cheques? Am I a project manager to be standing on the ground and directing it? Am I expected to sit at the provincial supply and tenders board meeting to deliberate on matters that go before the procurement?

Mr Speaker, I am facing great difficulty in delivering services to my people because public servants in my district under the provincial administration level who are tasked with the responsibility of implementing my directions are playing politics. Certain officers sit in the provincial supply and tenders board who have political aspirations are discretely tarnishing my projects so as to discredit me and turn my people against me for failing to deliver goods and services.

Mr Speaker, there is another major impediment blocking delivery of government services in not only my electorate but the entire province. This is the dysfunctional provincial administration and public services machinery in the province. As I speak, there are two acting provincial administrators appointed by the Government and I want the Public Services Minister to take note.

13/04

Mr Speaker, these two persons are currently struggling for power for several months in court for this matter. As a result, the public servants on the ground have developed loyalty towards these two men. Of course, this has resulted in a complete breakdown of public service machinery in the province.

I hope the Chairman of the Special Parliamentary Committee on Public Sector Reform and Service Delivery did take note of what I highlighted.

Mr Speaker, while these two men and their loyal subjects are in the public service machinery struggling for power, no work has been done. Public funds are expended in the power play and the ordinary people are made to suffer.

Mr Speaker, it is interesting to let you know that all of those in the provincial administration have been put off their position on acting basis depending on the finalisation of the provincial administration restructure.

The Department of Personnel Management is delaying the implementation of the provincial restructure because the acting administrators are battling the case in court.

Mr Speaker, we the people of Western Province are the milking cow and we have lot of money. However, we have people in the province who are collaborating with the people outside and they all have vested interest in the appointment of the administrator because they want to have a share of the milk money. These are the people who kept on lobbying for the position of the administrator. They want their crony administrator to take the position so they can continue to benefit from it. As a result, it has caused a long delay in the appointing of the position of the permanent administrator of the province.

Mr Speaker, as a first time Member, I have seen that what is happening in Waigani is also happening in the province. I am already sick and fed up with such attitude.

I want to say that, enough is enough! And I am calling on the Public Service Minister and the Prime Minister who is the chief executive to act without any further delay to appoint a permanent administrator who I suggest would be a neutral person who can restore order and confidence to implement Government policies to the much-needed services for the people in North Fly, South Fly and Middle Fly.

Mr Speaker, I am tired of being blamed for not implementing when in fact it is the implementing agencies that are failing to do their job.

MOTION BY LEAVE

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

Leave granted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE – HONOURABLE STEPHEN KAMA

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

That Mr Stephen Kama be granted leave of absence on the ground of ill health

MOTION BY LEAVE

Mr JAMES MARAPE (Tari-Pori – Minister for Finance) – I ask leave of 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: 209 being called on forthwith.

NATIONAL JUDICIAL SYSTEM (CONSTITUTIONAL) (AMENDMENT) LAW 2015

First Reading

Proposed Law presented by **Mr Ano Pala** and read a first time.

Ordered – That as per *Standing Order 222A* the Proposed Law now stands referred to the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Laws, Acts and Subordinate Legislation.

14/04

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Question proposed –

That grievances be noted.

Mr JIM KAS (Madang) – Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to express my views on the Pacific Marine Industrial Zone (PMIZ) case in Madang.

On Tuesday I wasn't here but the Member for Sumkar presented a petition relating to the subject matter.

Let me say it here clearly that I was not here when the PMIZ decision was made by the Government. I was outside of Parliament as a citizen of Madang but let me put it before the Parliament that because it is a National Government decision we, the peripheral governments should support it.

The PMIZ decision is a decision made for the good of the country. I want that to be very clear. And for that purpose, it is for the benefit of the people of Madang as well. The only issue that my government would take exception to - and I think the Member for Sumkar should also go and explain to the people of the affected area and those people who signed the petition- is on the benefit sharing agreement and related issues surrounding that project.

I want to make it clear here that the Madang Provincial Government and the Madang Provincial Administration are behind the project. I want the Government to know that. I believe as a responsible provincial government the issues raised by the people through the Member for Sumkar will be adequately dealt with back in the province. The Member presented the petition here because of certain conditions and promises he made during the election campaign to impress certain electors to make a difference at the end of the day. And I think that for that purpose he made a promise to come and present the petition for the benefit of his voters.

But let me reiterate here that PMIZ for the benefit of the nation will have to go ahead, and being an advocate of environmental issues in the province, let me state here that the Madang Provincial Government is the first provincial government to incorporate sustainable environmental practices in the planning system of the provincial government. We are addressing the issue of environmental sustainability adequately.

And for those groups who are misleading the people around the project area, I suggest that they should come and discuss with the Madang Provincial Government and we can talk about it.

To finish my stance on the project let me say that the Madang Provincial Government is behind the PMIZ project. The only issue that we have a contention with is how to share the benefits. I am asking the National Government to sit down and balance out the concerns of the landowners and the Madang Provincial Government on how best you can divide the benefits derived and share it with us so that we can be satisfied with the whole issue.

I cannot speak for the Member for Madang. I think it is his electorate and being in Government I think he will support the project. I cannot speak for him.

15/04

Sir PUKA TEMU (Abau - Minister for Public Service) – I wish to add to the Grievance Debate some very short issues. The first one is about an article that appeared on page 17 of *Post-Courier*, where it was claimed that I abused the betel nut guards at Dogura.

Mr Speaker, everybody knows that I a humble man, I don't drink while driving up and down the highway every weekend and here, somebody is accusing me of drinking while I was on the highway. They should have tested my blood alcohol level; it would have been well below the standard.

Mr Speaker, I was stopped by an NCD guard twice without any police support. That was when I was returning from the burial of my district treasurer. I have also been told by my people of Rigo and Abau that buai controllers stop them, confiscate their buai and resell them on the road side. When I was stopped at the check-point, this is exactly what I saw happening; the buai guards were selling buai on the side of the road.

Mr Speaker, I am a very patient human being, one of the most patient human beings on earth.

(Members applauding)

Sir PUKA TEMU – Mr Speaker, when people constantly do this type of thing and sell the products that they are supposed to be disposing, my patience disappears because I can't tolerate the behaviour. When I asked, they mentioned the Governor's name and so I had to go and remove everything. I said, stop everything, this is my highway called Magi highway, it's a name given by the Abau people and I have the right to travel in and out of my city. The Governor is a caretaker and manager of my city called Port Moresby. By virtue of the *NCD Act* the Parliament took it away from Central people so I want my city back.

I want to ask the honourable Members of Parliament to remove this *NCD Act*. Grand Chief, you took my city away from my people and then you gave me K50 million to build my city outside of NCD. You moved me away from my house and you asked me to build my house outside of my area and I will no longer tolerate this. So this is what happened on my highway, all because of the so-called buai ban. It is a strategy that is not well managed. I take my hat off to the Governor for cleaning up the Port Moresby city, but I maintain and believe that you cannot stop a citizen from trading a commodity in any part of this country. Nobody has the right to stop the trading of a commodity like betel nut, coffee, kaukau or alcohol. I

believe that the *NCD Act* amendment on the sale of betel nut is unconstitutional and after the Pacific Games I will challenge that.

Mr Speaker, I use this Grievance Debate not to make a personal explanation, but because I don't need to explain anything but to maintain my position as a leader from the Central Province, and someone who has had his land taken away from him.

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Many of you are buying big blocks of land from my people and you are putting up big buildings, housing estates and others without proper processes and my people have become spectators.

I want the Parliament to help me to bring the Motu Koitabu people back to Central Province. Motu-Koitabu people must remain as Central Province people and not in NCD.

But like what the Prime Minister is providing in terms of leadership in Lae and Mt Hagen, an Authority is established to manage the city on behalf of the provincial government. I'm not asking for too much. I want my colleague leaders, during this term of Parliament, to re-look at this issue. I cried when I saw police dump K500, 000 worth of betel nut into the sea.

Betel nut is not easy to grow, you only know how to chew but you do not know the hardship people face to have those trees mature. We plant it and we know how to chew it and dispose of its rubbish correctly. In Alotau, it is very clean, even these are people who are known to be great chewers of betel nut. They grow it and they chew it but with great care as well. Go to Kwikila, the market is full of betel nut but there is no betel nut spittle anywhere.

Those of us who are trying to take over the culture and sell betel nut on behalf of the growers; please be mindful, and I am prepared to give you lessons on how to chew betel nut. I will hold classes for you at a minimum cost. We all want the city to be clean but when I see my peoples' betel nut being removed and being sold at the site that these bags are removed, I have lost all my patience.

As a leader, I will not stop talking, this being my third term in Parliament, I want my city back. And this is the first debate I have made in asking Parliament to give me back my city of Port Moresby. Please do not allow me to build a new city outside of NCD. It is unfair, unconstitutional, unethical and immoral.

The Commission can look after the city but my people must be given top priority. No Central people are building settlements in Goroka, Rabaul, Wewak, Mendi or any other town for that matter. We do not settle in your towns. We know that we have our own place we call

home. And we will go through the process and we agree that Port Moresby is our Nation's Capital and there is no problems about that.

When I retire I will probably go to New Ireland or Bougainville because those are my favourite spots. But in terms of the spirit under which I am making these remarks; Central Province has been displaced from the city. This is the principle point I am making. I am not saying that you can't settle here but we now need to demand to Parliament to review the entire arrangement of NCD as an Authority to have a regional Member in Parliament as well as its other electorates.

17/04

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Minister, your time is up.

Sir PUKA TEMU – I want this grievance debate to be recorded because I will come back again.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr RONNY KNIGHT (Manus) – Thank you, Mr Speaker, for allowing me to express the woes of my people through this forum.

Mr Speaker, I thank my people for mandating me as their leader. I thought I would be able to begin immediately to perform changes for the good of my people but what a shock it is we leaders get when we eventually find the truth, we fight an uphill battle all the way.

Mr Speaker, we are elected into a system where we inherit presidents and public servants from the former regime, many of them who are complicit in larceny and resent any one new coming into office to disrupt their comfort zone by displacing their friends.

Mr Speaker, we undoubtedly are stuck with this nest of vipers for a year until the LLG Elections and we find that the whole year is wasted with petty intrigue and sabotage.

Mr Speaker, I believe that we should be able to hold National and LLG Elections at the same time and the benefits are there before for us to see; one cost for one elections and one roll out for electoral officials, it is a no-brainer.

Mr Speaker, the best part is we bring in a new government to power and at the same time we will be able to work together. We need to be sure that our public servants perform to expectations. I know that right now there is a huge problem in Manus and also in other provinces too.

My governor and I continue to face unproductive work ethics we can direct, we can order, we can scream up and down but the direction will not happen until some public servant is good and ready to do his job at his own time and pace, and only when his allowance is paid first.

Mr Speaker, Manus has many scattered islands but in area it is the second largest province in PNG. I have debated that issue many times on the Floor of Parliament, especially the huge logistical nightmare that I face.

Mr Speaker, my province is financially not running well. Funds earmarked for certain projects are being sundered and it is obvious that it has been done by those in the system.

Mr Speaker, we are all mandated by our people to be in Parliament and we have their trust and the people have every right to change their leaders every five years.

This, however, leaves us at the mercy of those public servants who continue to sabotage us and we do not perform to our people's expectations in our term and we often bear the many grunts of these frustrations and we are being voted out.

However, we find out that the new Members coming in suffer the same fate because those same public servants are ready to do the same thing to them.

Something must change so we have centralized, expert and honest public servants who can implement our leadership decisions in a timely manner without political attachments.

Why are they so concern for the outgoing members? Well we must assume that the public servants are incompetent, they are ignorant of their roles or they are criminally negligent in their responsibilities.

We find that funds earmarked for hospitals in Manus under the Health Sector are all gone and used up for other things besides the hospitals. We find that those funds are being spent on accommodation allowances, travel, even president and public servants are being paid cash advances out of such funds and with all our safeguards and checks, how does that happen?

When Members are accused of misuse, we go to Court. Obviously, we have a complicit clique of untrustworthy people who know how to manipulate the system and get away with it. Most of this expenditures have nothing to do with Health.

Mr Speaker, I have been extremely humbled and honoured by my people's trust and I feel so frustrated when we cannot even acquit simple funds expenditure because of the attitude of those people responsible to those acquittals.

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I feel so frustrated when we cannot even acquit simple funds and its expenditure because of the attitude of those Public Servants responsible to do those acquittals, and we have to go down and do that job ourselves. If they have no right to frustrate our peoples will. However, Mr Speaker, I will fight for my people's rights and I will make sure that the people of Manus get what they deserve.

Ms LOUJAYA KOUZA (Lae) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity during this Grievance Debate to add to the question that was asked by the honourable Member for Nawae during Question Time in relation to Police infrastructure in Lae and the road within the Bumbu Police Barracks.

For the record and for the good of the Member for Nawae, who share a common border with me; I have taken charge of the 23 ward areas including Nawae and the Huon. And in our development roll-out programme for the road sealing that will be happening within the Bumbu Police Barracks, paper work has already been submitted to the Works Department and commitments made to seal the road within the Bumbu Police Barracks with solar lighting as well.

The housing within Bumbu Police Barracks is a national commitment so I am only going to be dealing with the housing at the Tent City Police Barracks as a DDA commitment. Further to the sealing of the Wagang Road drainage including solar lighting, paper work is also with the Works Department and will commence as per advice from our civil engineers on the ground. And this includes the ANZAC Memorial Avenue sealing the paper work already been submitted.

My grievance for this morning will be basically on the K5 million that was committed for Lae District Development parked with the honourable Governor and for 2013 was not received by Lae District on any impact projects; 2014 K5 million not received by Lae District on any impact projects and K5 million for this year as well.

On that note and on the wisdom of the Government, it was decided that we would have K5 million parked for Health, Education, Infrastructure on top of our DSIP of K10 million totalling to K15 million. But still outstanding from our Governor is a total of K15 million.

To set the record straight a letter has been written to the Provincial Administrator, Mr Patilas Gamato, requesting for the K5 million for 2013 which still is outstanding for infrastructure purposes. There is a Youth Friendly Centre MOA that I have signed with the

Director General of the National Youth Development Authority and we want that bill to be passed by next week as well so that it can fast track our commitment within.

We have committed K5 million for 2013, which is still with our Governor, and National Youth Development Authority for their counter-part funding of K10 million for the Youth Friendly Centre in Lae as a head-quarters to direct the traffic of our Youths from the other 8 districts into Lae where there can have a place to gather and meet and form a network. And also K5 million for 2014 is outstanding from our Governor which was committed for Women's Infrastructure so that we can build a head quarter for women's gathering in all the 9 districts to access training and so forth. And the other K5 million for this year for each of the 9 Members of Morobe and the Governor will take charge of it.

For this year, K5 million was committed for Disability Infrastructure because this Government sent the Deputy Prime Minister and myself to New York and we signed the rectification for disability and we need to start putting up disability friendly infrastructure and we want to do that in Lae.

So, if all of you have similar problems of K5 million parked with your Governor, we need to get these funds rolling so that there can be development in our districts.

And these are my grievances and I am waiting to chair an LCA that will be happening

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LCA is going to be a standalone direct government funding and I need the support of nine members of Morobe to understand that if we parked our moneys with the Governor and we have not seen infrastructure in our respective districts –

Mr Sam Basil – Point of Order! Mr Deputy Speaker, we did discuss that at the Tutumang Assembly but I have not seen the Member for Lae in Tutumang. I asked her to come to the next Assembly sitting in Morobe so that we can discuss that before our Governor because we have already discussed that on the Floor of Tutumang.

Ms LOUJAYA KOUZA – Good honourable Deputy Opposition Leader, I was there at that meeting when you were here and you lost your emotions and hit the table demanding for your Bulolo cut. So you had to follow the Governor everywhere.

I am asking for my cut for the Lae District –

Mr Sam Basil – Point of Order! I think she does not understand that K5million goes to the Governor so you have to come to Tutumang Assembly to discuss it and not here on the Floor of Parliament.

Ms LOUJAYA KOUZA – I am not going to be intimidated. It is a total of K15 million. If that is passed in Morobe Provincial Government and you nine members have received your cut, I am asking for the Lae District cut, so that we can get the infrastructure done. Lae city is your city so speak up and support me. This is where you come to do your business so all I am asking for is to kindly make our governors accountable to release the moneys where it supposed to go.

Mr Speaker, we have development agendas in our respective districts.

Mr NIXON DUBAN (Madang – Minister for Petroleum and Energy) – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to join the Grievance Debate this afternoon on behalf of my people of Madang.

Mr Speaker, there are two issues that I would like to raise this afternoon. Firstly, I would like to advise the Government and the Minister for Commerce and Industry in relation to the petition presented on the Floor of Parliament by the Member for Sumkar.

Mr Speaker, the PMIZ is situated within Madang District. The people of Madang are not part of Sumkar Electorate and the Member for Sumkar does not represent the Madang District in any one sense of representation.

For him to bring grievances onto the Floor and representing the people of Madang is a big embarrassment and, therefore, I want to object to the petition. Our people have conducted their impact umbrella companies and they are all organised. They have been waiting for this project and I want to assure the Government that we want this project to go ahead. We do not stand in any position to object to any of these issues that are now before Cabinet in terms of the standards.

We fully support the Government's commitment to develop PMIZ. Our assurance to this Government is that this project must be developed as per the plan that the Government has announced to our people.

We want to assure the Prime Minister and the Department of Commerce and Industry that all our people in Madang fully support the project.

This petition, Mr Speaker, I do not know who is behind it but Madang is not a football ground for the NGOs if they want to play football, this is not the right place.

Our landowners are not objecting to this project. The people who are opposing this project are the people who do not own the land and water. They are now causing problems for this project. As Member for Madang, I strongly support the project because it is the project of the future and the people of Papua New Guinea.

Mr Speaker, secondly, the issue of election. I have gone through by-elections and recounts and have been re-elected three times in one Parliament's term. It looks really funny because Electoral Commission, who has taken charge of this important democratic process, want to be accountable in some of the issues.

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Mr Deputy Speaker, the Electoral Commission has taken charge of this very democratic process and it is important that we have to be accountable in some of those issues that we as Members or candidates are facing.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in the recent by-election, the containers containing ballot papers were not properly kept. They were not properly kept in the police station but kept outside and as a result candidates opened them and replaced all the ballot papers.

We know that in Papua New Guinea and in one particular province you will always find ballot papers in very obvious places.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Madang is becoming a common place for such illegal activities. Recently we found some at the cemetery and for some unknown reason they were found on the grave of the candidate's own mother.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr NIXON DUBAN – Mr Deputy Speaker, that is a record find where you find ballot papers in the cemetery on the grave of your relatives.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to say that when these ballot papers were found they were not brought to the police station but brought to the hotel owned by the candidate. They were never brought to the Electoral Commission but kept at the candidate's residence.

(Sam Basil interjecting)

Mr NIXON DUBAN – He's your friend!

Mr Deputy Speaker, this business of electing Members of Parliament is a serious business. The integrity of the province must be maintained. Why are we then allowing the Electoral Commission to go that low by not keeping scrutiny of containers and allowing ballot papers to get out?

All the serial numbers that we see are kept by scrutinisers. The Electoral Commission now has caused a lot of problems.

This particular candidate was taking the Member for Madang to the court of disputed returns the Electoral Commission was allowed to go and nominate in a another electorate. This is a mess because how can you be in two separate electorates and at the same time?

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am asking the Parliament to commission an inquiry into this whole election fraud. This is unfair because when you want to get work done, you get dragged into this unnecessary business of defending yourself in court when you are not even responsible for one of those ballot papers going missing. Now, if we look at hotspots in PNG, Madang has never been a hotspot. Now, we have situations of by-elections and recounts and I can assure our people of Madang that this issue is not going down well with me as the Member for Madang.

You are forced to go and defend yourself at a huge cost unnecessarily. I would like to ask this Parliament, when you raise issues on this Floor of Parliament and debate them, who is actually taking them into policy or translating them into issues which they can address? Is it the Law Reform Commission? Who is converting these issues into policy matters? We must not allow these issues to continue to go on unattended.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am asking this Parliament and the Government that we must make an intervention to protect the process of electing our Members of Parliament in the future. Madang is a good project for us to do an intervention where we can commission an inquiry or high level investigation. There are people who have abused the election process, kept ballot papers and fixed elections. We will have a lot to remember about when it comes to setting the record straight.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I speak with a lot of hatred because this has unnecessarily caused us to be stuck in the Courts and witnesses when we have to have time to go and work with our people, Ministry and our country.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Sir MICHAEL SOMARE (East Sepik) – I have only a small issue to raise here.

I heard that last week some '*kuliman*' and '*kumburman*' who bought betel nut supplies for themselves had 500 of their betel nut bags thrown into the sea by the police. These are people from the Mekeo area.

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I also heard that sometimes Police get those betel nut and take it home for their wives to sell as their own. Do you think that is fair to the poor villager who is trying to earn a living? I would like to also refer to what the Minister for Public Service, Honourable Sir Puka Temu, mentioned that this is their land and they are free to move around as they please. They do not have major industries in Mekeo to generate money and Port Moresby is their capital.

When I was the head of this Parliament, I raised the issue of an inquiry into electoral boundaries of the National Capital District. I allocated K100 million to create a separate capital for them but I do not know which treasurer decided otherwise and channelled the money elsewhere. I wanted the National Capital be a commission and not a district like what it is in Canberra.

Most of you here today a well-educated but it looks like you do not have a care about your people. It is not fair and right to hear that Police are getting the people's betel nuts and taking it back to their own places to sell as their own. This is their grievance about their betel nut bags with an estimated value of about K3 000 to almost K10 000 being disposed-off in the sea.

Mr Speaker, I would like the Prime Minister and his Treasurer to note that there must be a commission to look into dividing this district. We must identify the Capital district from the Central province and build a separate town for them.

I have been here for 55 years but I have never bought land here. I have also lived at my home in East Sepik. When we came and got independence, I asked these people if we could build our capital city here and they agreed and so today we have our city sitting on their land.

I am really ashamed to hear that people from other parts of the country are taking over their land whilst they become marginalised in their own land. We have land back home but yet we are claiming more from these people. Just look around Port Moresby and you will see that outside people are settling everywhere and occupying their land. It is really shameful to hear one of their leaders complaining about this sort of things. They have all the right to come and sell their betel nut here because this is their land and their capital city but let us allocate certain places for them to their trading.

It would be good if the Governor of NCD, Honourable Powes Parkop, who is from Manus realise and help out the local people here. I am living in their electorate so I must be very considerate about them. If the honourable Member for Lae can be very vocal and eventually achieving a commission for Morobe, I do not see any reason why we can't do the same for National Capital District. We are depriving the locals of their land because outsiders are taking over their land. No outsider will go to your home and talk about your land. If he does that you are bound to fight against him or her. Land is an important part of our lives.

We must answer the question of land in the city. We must look into the boundaries and fix for the good of all of us.

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We have deprived the Motu-Koita people of their land. We have not given them an electorate of their own. I want the Prime Minister and his Treasurer to be serious about it and create a commission to look into these things. There will definitely be a lot of problems if we are not careful about it. For example, when the police went down to the Hanuabada village, they did not go to settle the problem but rather they were there to belt up the local villagers resulting in a death. This is really shameful.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we are talking about East New Britain to have their own commission. Lae recently got their commission so when will NCD get its commission? I was the one who asked the Papuans for their land to make this place become the country's capital but we are not thanking them enough. I am still here in Parliament and will stay much longer if I want to but I think my time is up. But before I leave, I would like to see that we sort out these issues for our people. I want a commission to be set and let it run the city like in Australia and many other countries. We should not allow it to come under the capital district.

Today, we have a lot of you educated and sophisticated people here so can we have all of you sit down together and come up with the appropriate paperwork for a commission to become a reality.

There is no need to have one Kairuku-Hiri electorate but separate electorates of Kairuku and Hiri. I am really displeased to hear that these people brought down their betel nut only to have them thrown into the sea. Don't the police have better things to do? We have people in police uniforms checking car registrations on our roads, are we following the law or not?

The people of Kairuku-Hiri can bring betel nut into the city because they do not have proper markets or avenues to sell their betel nut at home. The market is here in the city because people living in the city want to chew betel nut. It is part of our custom to chew betel nut but many people in the city have abused that culture and so it has become a problem for the city.

The Governor of NCDC is doing a good job in banning its sale here but it must be done in a manner that it does not affect and hurt other people who rely on it as a source of income and livelihood.

Mr KILA HAODA (Central) – Leaders of Central Province have been humiliated by the stand that we are taking in relation to the sale of betel nut.

Betel nut is our people's livelihood and they have been trading this commodity for many years. The central people and other people who grow betel nut know how to chew betel nut. They know how to look after the rubbish that comes from betel nut. In NCD, we have the entire Papua New Guinea living here. That culture is not there in NCD.

We have been seen so many times as less stronger people in this country. We need the respect of other leaders of this country to be recognised as equals in this country. All our ancestors were fierce fighters and cannibals.

23/04

Your answers support the fourth and eighth man as well but let us be certain that we are here trying to sell the commodity. People from other provinces are buying it for their survival. Is it better for them to sell the betel nut or for us to take the betel nut off their hands and allow them to steal? They need it for their survival.

I stand here in Parliament as a model of a person who sells betel nut. If I hadn't sold betel nut in West New Britain I will not be standing in Parliament today. Our people need that commodity for their survival, for the enrichment and for their power. We have taken it right off from those people who are the landowners of Port Moresby.

My people have suffered for a very long time now since the ban was introduced. I fully support the ban for what it is happening in Port Moresby. We should all be proud of what is happening in our capital. We need to regulate the way of selling betel nut and enforcement is the responsibility of NCDC, that's not my responsibility.

My responsibility is to provide the betel nut, my personal responsibility, but you regulate it, you police it as you do to your people.

It's a big industry. Our people have selling points for betel nut. At one of the points in Kairuku, police organise themselves with other people and they go and raid the villages. It's a big industry, it's like the drug industry.

We have talked with Police and to Justice. Only last month we organised a raid with police and got other policemen who are behind bars right now. So what people are talking about is not just talk, it is true that the police are involved. It is true the army is involved.

So our people are at the mercy of these people. Our people have been at the mercy of NCD guards which Sir Puka encountered. We have a lot of problems in our hands for our people.

Sir Puka once talked to me about buai and he cried in front of me. This is a sentimental issue for our people. We want our people to be respected and we want our economy back for our people.

When the buai issue was started, as the Governor of the province, I was never notified about the imposition of this ban, nor was I notified about a market that was set up in Laloki. It is a part of Central Province, yet I am the Governor of the province. How can I go to New Ireland or West Sepik and not see the governor before setting up a market.

Time and time again we have not been respected by various governments and leaders. This is my land, Taboro is my land, why was I not consulted when my people are growing the buai. I am a person too, I also want to make business, everybody wants to make business but you are removing the people's money. How can they live their lives?

In Mekeo, we talk about rice. When are we going to bring rice to Mekeo so that the people have an alternative crop? We beg, we beg, we beg all the time. We want people to listen to us. We want to sell these betel nuts and we want to work with NCD to find solutions.

Many a time when making decisions about buai we are never notified even though we want to work with NCD to find solutions. Solutions can be achieved but Central Province was left out of the equation.

In what term of Parliament I do not know but a super hospital for PNG was to be built in Bautama.

24/04

Under that name, a large piece of land was acquired at Bautama and now that this hospital is non-existent, we are trying to find out the status of the land. The land is now under a private name and we are going to go to court with the people involved and we want to retain the land. The 1100

hectare of land was acquired for one hospital and I will need that land for my city, if my city is to be built there or for other purposes as Sir Puka has suggested. But this issue about land is serious as the title is now under an individual name and we want it back. We want the Lands Minister to cooperate with us to help us acquire back this land.

Mr SAM BASIL (Wau-Bulolo - Deputy Opposition Leader) – Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker, before I continue on my debate, I would like to also contribute on the Bautama city issue.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I was privileged to be on the Parliamentary Accounts Committee in the last Parliament when we enquired into the Bautama city and the K50 million that was made available. I think the Public Accounts Committee has made all recommendations on people involved in using the K50 million and misappropriating it. There were recommendations for prosecution and I believe that it's waiting for any Papuan leaders concerned about Bautama city to pay a visit to the Public Accounts Committee, take the report to the Police station and have individuals that have misused the money charged because you owe it to the People of Papua New Guinea that used the Papuan people's land and name to misappropriate that money.

Mr Speaker, I would like to continue on from the Member for Madang, Nixon Duban, and also from the Member for Manus, regarding the Electoral Commission.

I support the Member for Manus in questioning the Government about the next General Election. Let us combine the LLG and the National Election together, so that it will save money and it will drive political party policies from the LLG level. We can also cut down on opportunists that contest the National Elections and then go down to the LLGs.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in relation to that, the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister have already tabled the 2012 -2013 LLG Election report by the Electoral Commission to the Parliament. During the debate, many questions were raised about the preparedness of the Electoral Commission to conduct an election as soon as possible.

Conducting elections require collaborations from many departments, agencies, and provincial administrations, furthermore, some provisions of the *Organic Law on Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates* were declared null and void in 2010. There have been review meetings and many workshops to fix those provisions and introduce new laws to regulate and guide political parties and candidates

Mr Deputy Speaker, we are now almost halfway towards 2017 and 2018, and the National LLG and national elections still deliver many failed elections as well as many vacant electorate seats that are yet to be filled.

Mr Deputy Speaker, is the Electoral Commission and the Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates commission able to conduct any election should circumstances allow for a National Election to be conducted in the next three months?

We all know, Mr Deputy Speaker, that the answer would be no. So, what is the Government doing to address the preparedness of the Electoral Commission, the IPPC and the other State agencies to conduct a successful elections if given the chance? There were failed LLG elections for presidents and even for the ward councillors in many provinces.

25/04

When will the Electoral Commission conduct those elections? In *The National* newspaper, page 11, today, the Electoral Commission has come out to once again ask for election-related expenses for 2012. They have not paid some of their service providers and we are now on the other side of the mountain, going towards another election year.

Mr Speaker, this is very serious and some presidents and councillors have died while in office, while others have been removed due to disputed returns or criminal convictions. When are the Electoral Commission and the Department of Provincial Affairs conducting the elections? In my district, I do have a Buan local level government and Wau –Bulolo Urban and I believe some other districts do have such, but it has been two years now and there are no elections and we are still waiting to have those positions filled.

The OLIPPAC is a significant component in screening of candidates, besides regulating political parties and candidates. When will the Government introduce a legislative amendment or a new legislation for this important office prescribed for by the *Constitution*?

The Electoral Commission and the IPPC requires that the 2015 and 2016 must be seen as years to prepare for any amendments to the OLIPPAC. So what is the level of funding assistance that will be provided if the law is delayed to be introduced? Can the Registrar of Political Parties publish a notice with 37 political parties out of 45, issuing show cause and notice for deregistration. These relate to governance and transparency issues. Is the Government increasing the resources of the Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates Commission to ensure that the political parties are assisted. If not, we want the Minister responsible to make a statement as soon as possible.

Mr Deputy Speaker, what are the Government's plans to implement the recommendations and the issues raised, relating to the conduct of the elections based on the 2012 National Election and the 2013 LLG election reports. And also the work of those two important offices.

We have read many times that the Electoral Commission is not prepared and needs more funding for the next elections. In the best interest of the next elections, all Members should stand together and ask the Minister responsible to come forward and let us to find ways to ensure that the next elections are conducted with adequate funding and capacity building for the Electoral Commission.

Mr PETER ISOAIMO (Kairuku-Hiri) –Mr Deputy Speaker, I raise to join the Minister for Public Service and Member for Abau and my Governor to debate on the betel nut ban.

The newspaper reports of K500 000 worth of nuts dumped in the sea is not so good. And the only issue I have as the Member responsible for the electorate is that we have legal boundaries and jurisdictions. And the betel nuts were confiscated at Gabi village in Hanuabada.

If it was taken away from our people at Roku, Porebada, Boera or Lealea, then it's wrong. Because I think there is ample time and notices issued to stop betel nut from being smuggled into the city in the lead up to the South Pacific Games. The Governor of NCD has put up a law by his municipal Government for this ban but people continue to defy his orders.

Yes, there are issues with the enforcement at Laloki check point, which is ineffective because even if you travelling in as early as one or two in the mornings, which I normally do because I have two districts in my electorate of which I operate; the Kairuku area from Bereina and Hiri district from Konedobu

26/04

I spend 14 days in my Kairuku-Hiri electorate then come to operate out of the Hiri Office here down in Konedobu.

Many times when I am travelling at 2 a.m and 3 a.m., Defence and Police 10-seaters are hired by the betel nut buyers to drive them up at these hiresto the betel nut market and come through the Laloki roadblock.

So, this is why my people have started to use the sea transport to come through. Many lives have been lost and I think I have been repeating this but we respect the laws of the country because we are all law abiding citizens.

Yes, there is a need to challenge this law but for me as a Leader, I have been working through with the Honourable Governor of NCD to try and find a way out.

He has tried his best to bring in a local company called 'Asikopina Limited'. Asikopina in Motu means no skin and he asked for some land beside the Ruburogo Market so we have allowed some land in Brown River in my own village to establish the second market so we can allow sellers from Mekeo to come through, sell in Brown River, Asikopina picks up and delivers it to all the license vendors in NCD.

The reason why this arrangement never worked out is that maybe we as leaders are not committed to helping the company financially.

Secondly, all the problems are caused are by illegal smugglers.

We have an approved authorized arrangement where all buyers come and sell to Asikopina, Asikopina lifts it off the Central Province Land and brings it in and distribute to all the vendors.

All the vendors are afraid of obtaining licenses now because what is the point of spending money on a license from NCDC Board when they can find a television sold cheaply even when the ban is in effect.

Maybe the leaders concerned, for the benefit of the people from our electorates who have been affected, could ask the Governor of NCD as Chairman of NCDC Board to repeal that by Law, but because some of us respect the law, we are supporting the ban to help our own people especially through the establishment of the market.

I have told my people that I will provide sea transport so, yes, I have bought four dinghies and outboard motors from Ela Motors to give to Hisiu, Touto and Manumanu people to transport the betel nut sellers to come from Lealea, Boera, Papa and Porebada villages, they are also going to be travelling out towards Barakau and Tubuserea.

The Police are still catching some betel nut sellers who are going up to Porebada, but for now I do not want to see any Police officers in Porebada, Lealea and Papa; the people are already fed up. They also run through the 24-hour day and night market at Gabadi and load all the betel nuts and come through.

The Police checked us at the Laloki Bridge when that is not their job. If you came through on that night you will realize that they were all asleep. Only a few of them, those show-off ones are there harassing us leaders at the checkpoint at Laloki.

When they realize that it is my vehicle, they all start asking for K5 each.

27/04

Who appointed you to stand here for me to come and pay you every time I must pass through? So if people are asking for favours or bribes then they have compromised

themselves and the purpose they are there for and so it does not make sense to establish roadblocks.

I want to join the Member for Abau and my Governor to put it to this Government that yes, we have an issue. The betel nut ban has economically affected our people and that is why our houses are filled with people every day. The K500 000 worth of betel nut dumped away in the sea will be equivalent to about K20 000 worth of bus fare bills for the Member for Kairuk-Hiri and the Governor of Central to send these people back home because they have to bring back a bag of flour or a bag of rice with them.

We have been very quiet over this problem for some time now and we ask for Government intervention. If the honourable Governor of NCD has a heart for us and removes the ban then I believe he will be highly respected by the people of Kairuku-Hiri. This is their livelihood and they survive on betel nut money.

I am rolling out my DDA but it is not working because people are so use to trading with betel nuts. It will take us a couple of years before they will hear us and start growing cash crops like cocoa. If the Minister for Agriculture and Livestock and his department are quick enough and we start cultivating rice maybe then people will have an opportunity to earn money and therefore forgo the betel nut trade. We definitely do need Government intervention.

I would like to thank the Prime Minister for committing the Government in looking at the rice project when he officiated at the opening of the new Koki fish market. I would like to ask the Government to fast track things after the South Pacific Games and look into the rice project as it is affecting our people.

Mr ANO PALA (Rigo – Minister for Justice and Attorney-General) – Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to point out that the Central Provincial Government passed a resolution to take this matter to court for a constitutional interpretation on the constitutionality of this bill.

We decided to wait until the Games are over because we all respect the good work that the Governor is doing. I think his intentions and the intention of the law is good so we decided to leave it be because it is important that we make our city look clean and nice for our visitors.

However, I think that at some stage after the Games we need to look at this issue. All the members of the assembly have agreed to look into it after the Games. We want to cooperate with the Governor and all the leaders in the city to ensure that we present a clean city to our visitors.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this issue is not about betel nut. It is about the rubbish and the spitting. The betel nut has become the victim and those involved in the trading become the criminals. We agree with the Governor of NCD that this city must be clean and there should be no compromise on it. We want to make sure that there is no rubbish and spitting in the city. These are two things any government in authority can handle without taking away the people's right to make a living and that is where the problem is. We say, we cannot sort out the rubbish so we will now punish you, and that is what we have done.

28/04

When you take away the people's right to survival, they will find another way to survive.

Mr Speaker, we have been reasonable and I think the people of Port Moresby city are very reasonable people. But it is now getting to a point where, when you take away K5000, I think, it is almost a criminal act.

Mr Speaker, while we have been concentrating too much on the Mekeo side, the Rigo and Abau people are being affected. You know that we have been selling betel nut in the city for many years. This is our biggest market but when that market is not made available to us the issue of the city becomes an issue. That is why Sir Puka is bringing forth the issue of the city.

I think as leaders we have to ensure that our culture and way of doing things in terms of commercial practices and survival needs are to be addressed. Because if we do not address them the people will go underground. They will get involved in illegal activities and we will be fighting them unnecessarily. But in actual fact, the fight was all about the rubbish and spitting in the city.

Mr Speaker, the amount of money spent on the police officers to go after the betel nut sellers can be used instead to advertise our messages. We can use less money to advertise, "No spitting, no rubbish," Then we can get the Policemen to enforce these laws.

As you know all the betel nut chewing villages throughout the country have no rubbish in their villages because it is their culture and it must be promoted. We should not be ashamed of it.

I know that some of you are ashamed of our people coming into the city and chewing because they look untidy. But this is our way of life. Even to the visitors we need to show them what our culture is.

Mr Speaker, the Clerk of Parliament has one very important power and that is the power to decide whether a man is qualified to become the Governor-General. That was the power I had when I was the Clerk and the Clerk today still has that power. So when all the nominees come in, the Clerk is to decide who is qualified. The Ombudsman Commission wrote to me when I was the Clerk and said: "no person who has two wives should be qualified. I went ahead and allowed Pato Kakaraia and the late Albert Kipalan to be qualified. So they called me up and said to refer me if I did not withdraw these names.

I said I am the Clerk and I decide. But they said no, this is a Christian Nation and as a Christian Nation, you should not have two wives. But I said whether they have two wives or not they are qualified. So I put their names down. That is our culture and that is our tradition. The Ombudsman Commission then said, what are you going to do when the Governor-General goes to the Queen. I said we will send the two wives or three wives to London to meet the Queen because that is our culture. And we should not be ashamed of it.

Why are you ashamed of a leader having two wives? That is our culture and our tradition, I said.

I am sure the Governor of NCD is a very reasonable man. But this is a culture that has been practiced by our people for many years. It will not go away, Governor, and I know you will understand. We support you because you understand. We will keep on supporting you because the way to resolve this problem is in your hands. All these people have voted for you. Let us concentrate on the rubbish and spitting and we will solve the problem, thank you.

29/04

Mr POWES PARKOP (National Capital District) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for giving me time to speak.

My intention is not to reply to all the grievances of the Governor and the MPs from Central Province because I appreciate their concerns and share in their grievances.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the problem with the city and dealing with betel nut is not caused by people from the Central Province. It is caused by all our people from everywhere from Papua New Guinea coming here and having no respect for each other and the city. With that, it is also hard to regulate and that is why we have come up with the ban which has a consequential effect on our people in Central Province.

I am not here to rebut or in any way downgrade their grievances and I also have taken note of all their grievances. We will consider all their grievances and try to find a solution that will be a win-win for all of us.

Mr Deputy Speaker, and Honourable Members of Parliament, at this time let me explain that we have a total ban in place. We have authorised a wholesaler who is from Baruni to purchase betel nut in wholesale and bringing it into the city legally. Therefore, there is no need for smuggling. There is a legal way by which betel nut can be sold in the city legally and we have made that very clear already.

I believe that some people are still involved in smuggling may be because the wholesaler does not have the ability to purchase all the produce that are coming from the Central Province and other provinces.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we are already looking at that and we might bring in one or two wholesalers. This is so that they can buy and bring it into the city to sell lawfully under license.

Mr Deputy Speaker, and Honourable Members, our goal is to regulate this particular event under license because just like licensed drivers it involves a dangerous activity. People who are involved in the consumption and selling of liquor are licensed because it is a risky activity.

Unfortunately, in our city betel nut vending and chewing has become a risky activity. It is risky to our health, the image of our city and to a lot of other things. It allows people who have no respect and long term association with our city to come in here. They do not have properties or long term relationships or care for our city. They just survive on betel nut on the streets and from there other problems can arise. This is because some of them get involved in selling marijuana and petty crimes just to name a few.

When vendors congregate you have legitimate vendors or illegitimate or petty criminals too mingling around them and preying on the vulnerable in the city. These are challenges that the ban is trying to address. The Member for Rigo and Minister for Justice and Attorney-General is correct. It is our culture and the problem is with chewing and spitting, and not with selling.

Mr Deputy Speaker, and Members of Parliament, but as you all know it is hard to regulate this activity in the city. We tried to provide them with a space but yet, they do not want to sell in a particular confined space. We tried to fix them to a particular market but they do not want to do that too. They want to trade anywhere and anytime at any place and the rubbish they throw with the spitting as well. This is not only an ugly sight but also a health risk and we all know about this. So, this is why we have put in place these mechanisms to address that concern.

It is a problem of the city, not the problem of our people in Central Province. Unfortunately, they have become victims of this action that we need to take to address and change the behaviour in our city.

Mr Deputy Speaker, behaviour as we all know cannot change overnight. So it's taking a bit of time but I hope that everybody wants for I too want this action to have a short time span. I wish our people could just change overnight but we all know that some people take a long time to change.

30/04

We are trying to put out a mechanism in place that can enable our people to change as fast as possible and then we can go back to openly selling it. If tomorrow our people stop spitting and littering all over the place then there would be no need for the ban of betel nut. Some people have changed but there are some who are still spitting at the bus stops, traffic lights and roundabouts. It is an ugly and a disgusting sight. As the Attorney-General mentioned, it is our culture to chew but it is not our culture to create rubbish. It is not our culture to spit here and there and this is something we must make clear to our people.

It is not a culture of betel nut vending to spit everywhere. In the old days, we had mechanism such as sorcery which scared people into not littering or spitting betel nut everywhere. However, today it is not the case and that is why we are having this littering problems. This has compelled us to put in such mechanisms to control betel nut and its rubbish. It is mechanism to not only prepare us for the upcoming Games but to also create an environment in the city that is conducive for our people to live in, go to school, work and build our country.

We hope that all the efforts put into the Pacific Games and the infrastructure that is being built in our city will compel our people to change. We hope that after the Games, people will realise the change and practise responsible chewing.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I do not think the Papua New Guineans are unique human beings. This is because I think the selling and spitting of betel nut is an Asian culture. It is not a Pacific culture. You look at the rest of the Pacific, they do not practise selling and spitting. It was probably back in our forefathers' time when they interacted with the Asian people who taught them to trade betel nut. If you look at Asia from Sri Lanka to Malaysia to Singapore to Thailand to Taiwan to China and to India you will find them chewing betel nut and spitting everywhere.

However, they have changed. Some of them have realised the disadvantages of betel nut chewing and spitting and have made a change. For example, the Malaysians have realised that betel nut affects the quality of life and have given up betel nut. And I think recently Thailand has banned betel nut. If they can change, I am confident that our people can change but I know it will take some time.

With respect to the Police Force, I must say that I do not have control over the police. When we had our reserve police, we had control over them and we gave them directions to conduct their business in a manner that does not bring indignity to our people. However, as you all are aware, the former Commissioner for Police decommissioned the reserve police unit therefore I do not have control now. The commissioned police have their own hierarchy to whom they are answerable to. There are some rogue police who associate with buyers and are going out and illegally trading in the betel nut trade.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the police at the boom gates are under instructions to respect our people of the Central Province and to only check suspicious vehicles. I must assure the Minister for Public Service that police officers along the Magi Highway are under strict instruction to respect our people Central.

31/04

We must respect the dignitaries and not to check their vehicles. They are only there to check vehicles because of the increased smuggling of betel nut. Yet, we did not put a road block on Magi Highway because it is not a big industry there because the people of Rigo and Abau have done well. They have multiple crop and they rely on other crops to sell to sustain themselves. They do not rely totally on betel nut.

I have heard their concerns and we will address this and the Prime Minister has given us the directive to come up with the special betel nut market and I hope it will also contribute to the outcome that we all want to see. I hope our people will respect that type of market.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I wish to inform this Parliament and the people of Papua New Guinea that we did not rush into imposing the ban on *betel nut*. We regulated it in 2008 and if Members can recall, we tried to take them out anywhere in the city of Port Moresby and tried to put them in selected markets, confine them in particular area and educate them but they cannot listen. I can understand what the Attorney-General had said but some of them could hardly take things seriously.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the issue about the city, it is up to the National Government and I did not decide that this should be the Capital of our country.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Governor, your time is up!

Mr POWES PARKOP – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Motion – That the grievance be noted – agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 1:20 p.m..