

FIRST DAY

Tuesday 21 July 2015

DRAFT HANSARD

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES CORRECTIONS TO DAILY DRAFT HANSARD

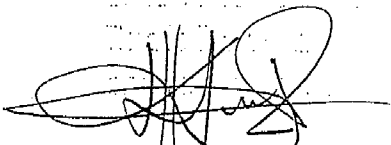
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Corrections should be authorised by signature and contain the name, office and telephone number of the person transmitting/making the corrections.

Amendments cannot be accepted over the phone.

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



LEE SIROTE

Acting Principal Parliamentary Reporter

FIRST DAY

Tuesday 21 July 2015

The Parliament met at 2 p.m. according to the terms the of Resolution of 5 June 2015.

The Speaker (**Mr Theodore Zurenuoc**) took the Chair.

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

Sitting suspended.

Mr Speaker again took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and invited the Governor of Central, **Honourable Kila Haoda** to say Prayers:

‘Iboudai aita guriguri, matada aita kohua. Sياهو bona helaga diravana, onohohanai bona bonoho hanaihanai, Papua Niugini Palamen session bona lidas Palamen lalonai inai wik lalonai bona next wik lalonai emai hebou lalodiai aonega namodia bona lalohadai namodia bahenimai emai tano inarina dainai. Emai lidas alalodia, Praitim Minista mai ena ministers, gavanoas bona National Palaman, Opposisen lidas danu mai ena ofis tim lidas ida, last tu wiks lalonau kantri lalonai Pasifik Gems eme heau emai taunimanima edia kara bona hemataurai pasifik kantris ia mai hekalaidia namo herea. Dirava gau iboudia iboudiai oi henimai noho. Oi henimai dainai emu taunimanima idia kara namodia taunimanima hekalaidia dainai ini ahenamo iboudiai baedai oi emuai. Gau iboudiaina oi emuai emaimu. Ba lalohadai lalodiai emai education bonaa balalohadai emai helt bona priority services, emai rumaruma idauidau inai kantri lalonai, development ena gavana ia namo namo inai tano bada latanai. Ina horai, taunimanima asi edia aniani alalodia, hospele enohomu oredia ina hora iboudiai ai, let us all say our prayer. Amen.’

**BROADCASTING OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS –
STATEMENT BY MR SPEAKER**

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, I have to inform Parliament that the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings met today and resolved that:

- (1) The *National Broadcasting Corporation* be allowed to broadcast live questions on television and radio; and
- (2) *TVWAN* will be allowed to broadcast questions for the duration of this Meeting for news purposes only.

**DEATH OF FORMER MEMBERS (MR SAI SAILON BESEO AND
MR MICAH WES) – STATEMENT BY MR SPEAKER**

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members I have to inform Parliament of the deaths of: Mr Sai Sailon Beseo on 17 July 2015 a former Member of the Kainantu Open Electorate in the Eighth National Parliament from 2007 to 2012.

During his term as a Member he was appointed Chairman the Parliamentary Committee of Justice on 18 September 2007, he was a Member of the Parliamentary Referral Committee of Disciplinary Services on 18 September 2007 and Minister for Correctional Services on 5 August 2011.

Also of the death of Mr Micah Wes on 15 July 2015. He was a former Member of the Vanimo-Green River Open Electorate in the Third National Parliament from 1982 to 1987 and the Sixth Parliament from 1997 to 2002.

During his term as a Member he was appointed Member of the Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Laws, Acts and Subordinate Legislation. He was a deputy chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts and deputy chairman of the Emergency Committee in 1982.

He was a Minister for Health from 1985 to 1986 and a Minister for Police from 1986 to 1987. He was also Minister for Lands and Physical Planning in 1987.

He was a Member for the Parliamentary Privileges Committee from 1987 to 1988, Chairman of the Referral Committee on Communications from 1997 to 1998. He was an

assistant speaker from 1999 to 2000 and a Member of the Parliamentary Committee on Public Works from 1999 to the year 2000.

He was a Member of the Parliamentary Committee on Economic Affairs and Investments from 1999 to the Year 2000 and was appointed Minister for Correctional Services in the Year 2000 and a Vice Minister Trade and Industry also in the Year 2000.

As a mark of respect to the memories of the late honourable gentlemen, I invite all Members to rise in their places.

02/01

QUESTIONS

Pacific Games – National Anthem

Mr TOBIAS KULANG – I direct my questions to the Attorney General, however, before I do that, Mr Speaker, I would like to offer the humble congratulations of the people of Kundiawa-Gembogl through you to the National Government, the Prime Minister and the Minister responsible for hosting an outstanding Pacific Games.

I must say that although 80 per cent of my people are living in the rural areas, they have surely felt the impact of the celebrations in Port Moresby. I would also like to congratulate the people of Port Moresby and the Governor of this city, Honourable Powes Parkop. I feel that since we are nearing our 40 years of independence anniversary, it is appropriate that we showcase our nation in a significant way. I feel that all our people right across the country, including my people of Kundiawa and Gembogl are celebrating this accomplishment by our Government.

Mr Speaker, the questions that I raise will not take away anything from the level of professionalism and class displayed to organise and stage the Games, however there was a technical issue that arose, which I heard myself and also from the public domain discussion and therefore I would like to raise this issue.

The questions are in relation to the way the National Anthem was sung on the opening ceremony night of the Games. My question is directed to the Attorney General to provide some clarification to the people through this Parliament. When I heard these changes to the National Anthem on that night, I researched the legislation on the *National Identity Act* to

find out if the National Anthem was in our *Constitution* and on the resource material on PACL, however, there was no reference on the National Anthem.

- (1) Did the National Anthem song ever go through the National Parliament to be officially endorsed as our National Anthem under the *Constitution*?

There are laws in place to prosecute people of disrespectful behaviour towards our national identity such as the flag, the crest, the National Anthem or the National song.

- (2) When such offences take place, who is responsible for raising such issues and to bring the people responsible to face the law?

In other countries people fight to defend their country and such issues are very important and it is very close to their heart. When I looked at the PNG law, the punishment for offences against our national identity is a mere K1000. The Games have generated a very big respect among people for our national identity and Papua New Guineans feel that they are the rightful owners of this land which was chosen and given to them by God.

- (3) Should similar offences take place in the future, how do we plan to address them?

03/01

Mr ANO PALA –Thank you Mr Speaker, I want to thank the Member for Kundiawa for his questions. Because the three questions relate to the same issue I will answer them generally. In relation to the wording of the National Anthem, I agree with the Member that it does not appear in our *National Identity Act*. If you look at the Act, the words that we sing as our National Anthem do not appear in the Act.

The words were declared under the Act. Although the actual words do not appear in the Act, they were declared under section 10 of the Act, by the Governor General in accordance with the advice of the National Government. In case you do not see those words, it does not mean that they are not authorised. They actually exist in the instrument of declaration under the Act.

Mr Speaker, in relation to the flag, the description of the flag exist in the law and also the penalty for not using the proper words with the National Anthem has been pointed out by the Member as a fine of K1000, and where a person who prints or reproduces, plays or sings or recites the National Anthem in a manner that is insulting or derogatory to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea is guilty of an offence. I think that is the general wording of it.

I understand that there was a digression from the actual words but I think in the spirit of the Games, in which you have already congratulated the Government for the very

successful games and in the spirit of sportsmanship and national unity, we achieved; these are perhaps minor digression that we can probably ignore.

Mr Speaker, it is one of the instances that should never be repeated again, because that is one of the offences as stated and a person who alters the words of our National Anthem is guilty of an offence for which he can be prosecuted and that is a matter that should be left to the authorities responsible for this.

But we need to take into account, the Act in the spirit of national unity and in the spirit of success that we have experienced for the games.

Kikori - Elk-Antelope Project

Mr MARK MAIPAKAI –Thank you Mr Speaker, I rise to ask questions to the Prime Minister. This is in relation to the latest decision to support *Total SA* and its development partners to pipe gas from Elk Antelope fields in the Gulf province to Caution Bay in Central province.

04/01

My questions are as follows;

- (1) Can the Prime Minister deny or confirm an announcement he made to the people of Gulf Province during one of his recent visits to Kerema -and I happen to witness it as I was part of your delegation - that he supported the development of Elk-Antelope Project to be in the Gulf Province and not elsewhere?
- (2) If the Prime Minister did actually make this statement, why has he changed his stand now and what are your reasons to justify the stand you have now taken?
- (3) In changing his stand, did he take into consideration the position of the Regional Member for Gulf, one of his own party man, and where does he stand now?

I want the Prime Minister to explain to the people of Gulf the questions I have raised to avoid any misconception or decisions in relation to the location of the pipeline and the position of the Regional Member who happens to be a member of the ruling party. Thank you

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thank you, Mr Speaker and I thank the good honourable Member for Kikori whom I have a good fortune of sharing the border of my electorate with him. I thank you very much for these good questions that need some level of clarity.

Mr Speaker, as we know that this Elk Antelope Project has been on the plans and discussion of the previous government and of course the previous provincial governments for

many years. The operator of that project, InterOil, had informed the Government then and this Government, when it was the operator, that they will develop the project in the Gulf Province. Of course any sensible Government will support a developer that is willing to invest in our country, particularly in a province that desires and of course wants to host such a development. So, Mr Speaker, when I visited the Gulf Province I merely reiterated that commitment by the then operator of that particular Oil and Gas Fields and recently as you know that operatorship has been transferred from InterOil to *Total*, a French based company that is now the operator of those fields and a developer who is trying to invest in the development of those Gas Reserves.

Mr Speaker, as a Government it is our responsibility to try and encourage investors to come and invest in this very highly competitive sector and given that globally, we see commodity prices particularly for oil and gas have dropped to almost a record low. Today to attract an investor to come and invest in these fields is very difficult.

Mr Speaker, *Total* has made a commercial decision and if you see the statement that I have released, I have welcomed their decision to invest in the Elk and Antelope Project in the Gulf Province.

The decision to host where the processing plant should be is a commercial decision and the partners of that project will make that.

We go by who the operator is and in this case it is *Total*. When *InterOil* sold out their shares to *Total* they have made a commercial decision that given the current prices of global commodity prices it is only economical to put up the processing plant next to the current LNG Plant. That does not mean that there won't be any other development in the Gulf Province.

Mr Speaker, the condensate facilities, I am told, will be based in the Gulf Province and of course the stripping plant will be based in the Gulf Province as we have the same stripping plant for the other project in the Hela Province. Those are the developments that will take place.

Mr Speaker, much of the jobs will be created during the construction phase. After the construction phase only few hundred people will be working to operate in this particular clans to try and operate them for over 30 years or so.

Mr Speaker, it is important that we work together both the Member and the provincial government and surely the Gulf Province owes it to their people that they put their politics aside and let us work for the interest of our people there and try and find a deal that is going to benefit our people.

05/01

We welcome the leaders of the Gulf to be on the same table with the Government while we are negotiating with *Total* company and other partners in getting a better deal for Papua New Guineans.

Mr Speaker, I am very well aware of the obligations that this Government has including meeting the domestic market obligations. We must make sure that we create jobs in the petro-chemical industry in Papua New Guinea that should have long term opportunities for our people in the thousands and not only during the construction phase.

That is why we are happy to discuss with *Total* and all the other partners about establishing Mercenol and Urea and all the other fertilisers and of course the other bi-products of LNG project that is about to start.

Mr Speaker, I appeal to the leaders of the Gulf Province; please let us work together and have common sense discussions rather than getting politics involved where it is not going to benefit anyone. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Outstanding Payment for Services – PDL 2 Kutubu

Dr ALLAN MARAT – Thank you Mr Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister for Petroleum and Energy. It arises out of a letter that I was given by one of the service providers in East New Britain Province. This refers to the signing of the LBSA and BSA in Kokopo in 2009.

We all know that there is a Statute of Limitations Act in Papua New Guinea that after six years civil claims will not be allowed.

Mr Speaker, this particular service provider, the new Rabaul Guest House and the Easy Marine Catering, ran the services to PDL 2 Kutubu. There is an outstanding amount of K72 000 plus.

Can that amount be settled before the service providers are statute barred?

Mr DIXON DUBAN – Thank you Mr Speaker. When I was the Police Minister I used to hear a lot about issues not being addressed and these were raised on the Floor by certain Members of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, I would like to ask the good Member for Rabaul to see me after the session so that we can sort this out.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (by **Mr James Marape**) agreed to –
That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 2.50 p.m..