

FOURTH DAY

Tuesday 28 July 2015

DRAFT HANSARD

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES CORRECTIONS TO DAILY DRAFT HANSARD

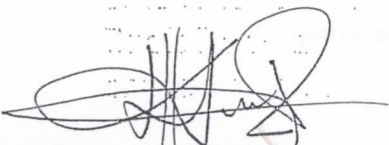
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LEE SIROTE

Acting Principal Parliamentary Reporter

FOURTH DAY

Tuesday 28 July 2015

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

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

Sitting suspended.

The Deputy Speaker again took the Chair at 10.40 a.m., and invited the Member for Abau, **Honourable Sir Puka Temu**, to say Prayers:

‘Papa God yu wokim olgeta samting istap antap long heaven na graun. Yu stap king bilong olgeta hap graun. Na yu stap King bilong dispel kantri bilong mipela, pipol bilong mipela na palamen bilong mipela.

Halivim ol memba bilong mipela long mekim ol wok istap long hand bilong mipela wantaim bel tru na stret. Na nambawan samting yu halivim mipela long tingim ol pipol bilong mipela. Halivim mipela long ol istap gud. Em tingting na toktok bilong mipela long dispela dei na givim blessing bilong yu long olgeta toktok. Olsem bai tingting bilong yu long dispela gudpela kantri iken kamap klia long mipela na ol pipol iken tingim yu. Amen.’

STATUS OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT BEFORE COURTS AND TRIBUNALS – STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, the Chair wishes to make a short statement clarifying the Chair’s position on matters relating to and regarding the current status of Members of Parliament that are before the Courts and Tribunals.

After considering legal advice, The Chair is of the view that all matters that are currently before the Courts and Tribunals are sub-judice and rules that no more statements and questions will be allowed on these matters while they are pending before the Courts and Tribunals.

However, the Chair is mindful of statements and opinions expressed in the media but will not enter into encourage or condone a trial by media of any Member concerned.

Whilst being mindful of Member's legal positions, the Chair is of the opinion that individual Members who are before the Courts and Tribunals exercise some self-respect, self-restraint and endeavour to uphold the dignity and decorum of the House by voluntarily excusing themselves from the Chamber during their Court of Tribunal processes.

The Chair in no way wishes to exclude any Member from the House and its proceedings, who is by law entitled to be present in the Chamber.

The Chair instead seeks to restore dignity and integrity back into the House through the exercise of individual Members respect for their own office and their observance of the processes and procedures of the House.

It is a conscience decision that Members should make voluntarily to avoid any improper imputations on each of the Members concerned, the Chair and all the members of the Honourable House by the people we represent.

Generally, by operation of law, Members who have cases before the Leadership Tribunals remain suspended until such time all matters referred to it are concluded. The Chair calls for this to be observed by all Members.

I have also instructed our lawyers to make an urgent application to the Supreme Court pursuant to Section 19 of the *Constitution* for a reference regarding these matters and so the House will be informed in due course.

In the meanwhile, it is the Chair's prerogative and duty to uphold the dignity and decorum of the House and to prevent as much as possible the House being brought into disrepute. Hence, the Chair invites all Member with current proceedings before the Courts and Tribunals to come to my office to discuss your respective matters to avoid any inconveniences for all.

QUESTIONS

Works – Upgrading and Sealing of Elimbari road

Mr WERA MORI – Thank you Mr Speaker. Before I ask my questions, I would like to commend the Member for Imbonggu, who voluntarily stood down when his case was deliberated.

He has set a very fine example for our new members of Parliament like myself. While he is back warming his chair it is only fair that I direct my questions to the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

These questions relate to the loans that were obtained to build the road infrastructure. Mr Speaker, sometime in 2012 or 2013, the Asian Development Bank approved a total of K115 million for the upgrading and sealing of the Elimbari Ring Road in Chuave.

02/04

For the upgrading and sealing of the Elimbari Ring Road in Chuave and also a further K39 million to basically upgrade and link up Kamaliki, Unggai, Moave and Chuave as a bypass to the problematic Daulo Pass.

Mr Speaker, today the Chuave District, through its own initiative has spent a considerable amount of money meeting all the requirements that is required by the Asian Development Bank including a donation of K250 000 to help ADB to conduct whatever is necessary to have those roads built.

Mr Speaker, my simple questions are: Road Works Tender-Chuave District

(1) Why is it that there has been a prolonged delay in the tendering of the Elimbari Ring Road of which K116 million was approved?

Works – Problematic Daulo Pass

(2) The government really serious about new pass by for Daulo linking up the Kamaliki, Unggai, Moave, Chuave road as a bypass to the problematic Daulo Pass?

I am raising this because at the moment we are having a dry spell it is alright but when we go into these prolonged wet seasons we always have a lot of problems with Daulo Pass and sometimes people use the road which we are building from DSIP funds as a bank.

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

Mr Speaker, some time ago I travelled to Kamaliki to go up to Unggai and Jacu and those areas and saw that there is some work done, especially sealing programme up to Unggai side of the Eastern Highlands around the particular road that the Member is talking about.

I am not aware of the reasons for the delay but I want to assure the Member that the Elimbari, road and Kamaliki, Moave to Chuave road is an important bypass for the Highlands Highway, especially when we have landslips along Daulo Pass. It is important that we have

that bypass and maintain it so that vehicles can use it in times of the closure of the main highway.

Mr Speaker, as I said to this honourable House last week, the Government has approved a new facility of US\$500 million from ADB for the Highlands Highway and most of it will go to the Simbu Section of the road.

It will be upgraded to a very high standard so that future closures do not happen and also the landslips that continue to block the road will not worry motorists any more.

Mr Speaker, on this particular delay, I will respond to the honourable Member after consultation with the Works Department.

Health – National Health Standards

Mr ELIAS KAPAVORE – My questions are directed to the Minister for Health and HIV/AIDS.

This relates to a news article in the *Post - Courier* dated 15th of this month. The title of the news article was, 'Goroka Hospital Low Standard, a Concern,'

I was the survey team leader in my past position as the CEO of the hospital. I was also consulted by this particular Department of Health that led the survey team to Goroka to do this important survey for this health facility. That was done in October of 2013.

Mr Speaker, the Department of Health has established clear guidelines with rules and service delivery delineations that defines the levels of health services in each health facility in the country.

We have seven levels of health facilities in the country according to health standards. Level one are the aid posts, level two are the health sub centres, which standards will be upgraded to community health posts, level three are the health centres, level four district hospitals, level five provincial hospitals, level six regional hospitals and level seven such as PMGH will be referred to as the main referral hospitals for the country.

Each level has their own defined roles and delineations, functions and various delivery levels in the delivery of services.

Mr Speaker, to ensure efficiency, accessibility and quality the Department of Health has put in place a survey process that ensures clinical and corporate governance are adhered to.

03/04

We have hospitals like Kundiawa, Mendi and Vanimo Hospital that have appreciated the standards, which are five star ratings to date. And Honourable Members of Parliament you can pay a visit to your respective hospitals and see for yourselves.

While the Health Department has put into place such mechanisms, however, it is incumbent on all CEOs of health authorities, hospitals and the boards to adapt the health standards in their health facilities, and it is applicable from level one to level seven.

Mr Speaker, I think that we cannot continue to blame the Department of Health, the Minister and Secretary for the rundown of health facilities or the breakdown in corporate and clinical governance in the health facilities.

I think that the breakdown of health facilities is the result of noncompliance of health standards. Therefore, my questions are as follows to the Minister for Health:

(1) What is the Department of Health undertaking to ensure continuous compliance to health standards in all the health care facilities in the country?

(2) Can the Minister assure the public in Eastern Highlands or the State to support the Eastern Highlands Provincial Health Authority meet the recommendations on the Survey Report, which we did during the survey?

(3) Can the Minister table in this Honourable Parliament Reports of health facilities as conducted by the Department of Health, so that, Honourable Members can work in consultation with the provincial health advisors, CEOs and church entities in compliance to the National Health Standards in our respective districts?

(4) Can the Minister inform the Parliament and the people of PNG, if the National Health Standards will become compulsory in all health facilities as the mechanism to monitor and deliver the expected health services in our country?

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr MICHEAL MALABAG – Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I would like to thank the Member for Pomio for his questions. He was an effective and very efficient CEO of the West Sepik Provincial Health Authority and prior to that the CEO of the Vanimo Hospital. He is a man who speaks with a lot of authority. Now, let me answer those four questions.

Mr Speaker, regarding question one, regarding the implementation of the National Health Service Standards.

It is now in its fourth year and it is progressing well after a very slow start. So far, 12 provinces have completed their training, assessment and benchmarking of health services against the National Health Standards. The Eastern Highlands Province in the first quarter of 2015 have completed their training and assessment of rural health services.

Mr Speaker, the standard include infrastructures, equipment, medical supplies, human resource management and in fact all the important elements for good health services.

Mr Speaker, in relation to the second question, the O'Neill-Dion Government has now approved the redevelopment of Goroka Hospital, and it is going to be called the New Diagnostic and Surgical Centre. This is an extension to the existing Goroka Hospital and that is a big plus for the people of eastern Highlands and also for the other highlands provinces as well.

This would allow for new equipment to be introduced as well as improving staffing to meet the National Health Service Standards. Whilst at the same time, the term of the existing board has expired and, therefore, Cabinet has approved a new board for the Eastern Highlands Provincial Health Authority Board. The members of the board will be sworn in this week under the chairmanship of Malcolm Keller Smith.

Mr Speaker, regarding the third question, the National Department of Health Draft is ready but I can report that the Goroka Hospital has recently completed an analysis or finding against the National Health Standard equivalent to level 5. It is therefore, incumbent both national and sub-national government to implement changes to meet the specified standards.

04/04

Mr Speaker, to implement the changes, Governors and Members of Parliament and I keep repeating on the appropriation on the DSIP and PSIP funds

Mr Speaker, on question number four, the National Health Services Standards would become compulsory in all health facilities as the mechanism to monitor and deliver expected health services by law as required by the *National Health Administrative Act*.

Mr Speaker, I'm confident that the very positive changes are now being introduced now by our Government together with our direct intervention we will enable Goroka Hospital to become a high quality specialist hospital that is able to meet the high national health standards that is expected of by a hospital of that class. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Supplementary Question

Health – Eastern Highlands Provincial Hospital – CEO

Mrs JULIE SOSO – Thank you very much Mr Speaker, and thank you for the question raised by the Member for Pomio. My question is also directed to the Health Minister and I would like the Public Service Minister to take note.

The Eastern Highlands Provincial Hospital has an ongoing problem for three years now. We appreciate the establishment of the Eastern Highlands Provincial Health Authority where Eastern Highlands Province has become one of the first provinces in the first quarter to establish the Provincial Health Authority. We have tried to address the issues surrounding the Goroka Hospital and the term of the Eastern Highlands Provincial Health Authority Board expired and we have a new board in place now under the chairmanship of which the Chairman Malcom Kela Smith. We will be swearing in the new health board sometimes next week

And my question is in relation to health standards. Goroka Hospital standards have dropped from a grade five ranking to a grade two and we have been watching this hospital and I feel that the staff have now been taking things personally. There are provisions in the *Public Service Management Act* is to discipline officers who go on strikes.

Can I ask the Minister of Health to look into the attitude of the staff in that hospital because it's no longer clinical or about health standards, it 'sow about personality and the war over CEO position which has resulted in the poor service delivery by the hospital.

Can the staff who have been involved in these strikes face disciplinary action?

Mr MICHAEL MALABAG – Thank you Governor for Eastern Highlands and welcome back to your appropriate seat on this side of the House in the Government bench.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

05/04

Mr MICHAEL MALABAG – Mr Speaker, as you know, Governor, this issue has happened a lot of time already. It is a question about senior public servants who are like the blind leading the blind because they want to get power. They are gathering nurses, doctors and everybody else under their leadership and coming up with all sorts of issues. It is not only in the hospital but also in the provincial authority. Every time there is something about it in

the newspapers. There was an incident where one NBC reporter was not supposed to be in one of the meeting sessions and reported about it. But enough is enough and you have also asked the Public Service Minister to take note.

With regard to my ministry, we have a big shortage of staff and that is why sometimes it is used to their effect because I cannot get rid of specialists and nurses. We need the work force but sometimes they take it for granted and it is bad. It affects the safety of our people. I have it in my heart to do something that was against my profession in my previous life but our people come first this time around.

Yes, Governor, we are aware of the situation over there and we are doing everything that we can. Currently, I have an administrator over there in Mr Ken Wai who has taken charge of the situation and I expect a complete debrief by the end of this week.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Health – WNB Provincial Health Authority

Mr SASINDRAN MUTHUVEL – Thank you Mr Speaker, I would also like to direct my questions to the Minister for Health.

Mr Speaker, I would like to give a quick background before I ask my questions. On 31 March, 2014, the Minister for Health came and declared the provincial health authority board. Under the *PHA Act 2007*, the Minister for Health has the powers to declare the provincial health authority where it is the initiative of the national and the provincial governments to combine both the general hospital and the rural health under the West New Britain administration and come up with one body which is the provincial health authority body.

Mr Speaker, on the 1st of July, 2015, we received a court order that was served to the acting CEO of the PHA but the acting CEO is not a party to the case. The defendants are the Minister for Health and the Independent State of Papua New Guinea.

The West New Britain province has become. The PHA implementing province at the moment. The hospital as far as I understand it is not a public hospital in operation under the *Public Hospitals Act* like before when it was called the Kimbe General Hospital. Today it is referred to as the West New Britain Provincial Health Authority.

(1) The Minister is aware or being served a copy of the same court order dated 1st of July, 2015?

(2) What kind of actions whether administrative or legal has the Minister taken to address this situation currently affecting the PHA establishment in the province? And also it is

very badly affecting the health services in West New Britain province.

(3) Can the Minister also visit or send a representative secretary or legal team to address the situation at the earliest? There issues affected the health services and I have been really struggling to address the health issue in West New Britain province.

Thank you.

Mr MICHAEL MALABAG – Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you to the Governor of West New Britain.

This problem initially goes back to 2012 when the previous CEO of Kimbe General Hospital was suspended by myself because there was no proper board in place. When there is no board the Minister automatically takes full responsibility. There were allegations of poor management and as a result Dr Victor Golpak was sidelined and Dr Joseph Nale who was the provincial health advisor was appoint acting CEO.

06/04

Mr Speaker, the Governor is correct. Since then, both the hospital and the rural health services have been amalgamated to one authority which is called the West New Britain Provincial Health Authority a single health system with a new Executive position including the CEO.

Mr Speaker, these positions have been redesignated again and that is why the new position of the Hospital Manager is lower and the CEO of the Health Authority is right up there.

Just to provide a simple answer is that I cannot go against a Court Order. I will be charged for contempt of Court.

Mr Speaker, I have directed the Secretary for Department of Health to reinstate him in line with the Court Order but to the position of Acting Manager of the Kimbe Hospital whilst Dr Nale remains as the Acting CEO of the West New Britain Health Authority until such time those positions are permanently advertised.

Mr Speaker, the Health Department Authorities are well versed with the situation up in Kimbe.

I assure the Governor that the Health Department Officials will go again to Kimbe and not only sort out this problem once and for all but to make sure that necessary requirements are in place so that the authority can function for the benefit of the people of the West New Britain Province.

Lands – Land Grabbing in Northern

Mr GARRY JUFFA – Mr Speaker, thank you for recognising the people of Northern Province. I direct my series of questions to the Lands and Physical Planning Minister and they are in relation to the matter of land grabbing and specifically an instance of land grabbing in the Northern Province.

Mr Speaker, by way of background, this year a company obtained a land title in Oro Province and evicted citizens of that province from that land unlawfully and fraudulently.

I say this because the company is owned by a Malaysian and yet on the company documents it names him as a Papua New Guinean. This was facilitated by a lawyer and employees of the Land Department in record time.

Land grabbing is a problem throughout the entire country and our province has taken measures to stop this by putting into place a Moratorium. However we are informed that Moratorium is illegal and only the Minister can impose it. So we are taking those measures to have him assist us in this regard.

My questions are as follows;

(1) Can the Land Minister inform this Parliament and my people what measures are taken by his department to address the issue of land grabbing?

Earlier, he had informed us that the Lands Department had no investigation prosecution or inspectorate means.

(2) What action has the Minister taken to rectify the situation so that land of the people of this country are protected against such actions?

(3) Is the Minister aware of this particular incident?

(4) Is the Minister able to inform the people of Oro the highly expensive IT System that has been put in the Lands Department, if it is able to prevent land grabbing and take action against those who are involved?

07/04

A highly costly IT system that has been put in the Lands Department. Can the Ministers inform us if that system is able to prevent land grabbing and take action against those who are involved?

Thank you very much.

Mr BENNY ALLAN – Thank you, Mr Speaker and through you I would like to thank the Honourable Governor of Oro for asking those series of questions.

Mr Speaker, land grabbing has been an issue in the country and my department has been accused of facilitating the process but let me make some points clear to how land titles are processed and issued.

Mr Speaker, let me go back to the issue that the honourable Governor has raised in regard to that company who was issued a title because the title was isosceles the company evicted has a title in his possession he has taken out the eviction some of our citizens who have being squatting or living on that particular portion of land that the Governor is referring to.

Mr Speaker, the due process is followed in terms of issuing titles in the country.

If a lawyer has assisted this particular company to apply for the title and is acting on behalf of the company and is stating that the Director or the owner of the company is a Papua New Guinean, I am not aware of that particular instance and I will ask the Governor to give details in writing so I can respond to him in writing as well.

I am not aware but I will investigate and come back to the Governor this week and respond to him with adequate answers to his question.

But if in my investigation I find that the company has not followed the process but we will look at the officer who has facilitated it.

In some cases, I have come to realise that titles are issued without the Land Board deliberating on applications and that is true in some instances and in this case with the Governors consent, I will investigate and come back to him and respond with adequate answers this week.

The IT system that he is referring to is the Luggy System that we have which is installed in the department and that is a very effective system where by all titles will be processed and no one would bypass the system to get the title issued. It is a very effective IT system that we have but the problem is that we have not paid the balance of the money owed to the contractor and we are still waiting for the funds.

We have written to the Treasury Department to give us that balance for that payment so that we will pay that contractor and have that activated and we can use that IT system which will help us to solve a lot of our problems today.

So, I will come back with adequate answers today or this week in response to the Governor. Thank you.

08/04

Lands – Colonial Administration

Mr PETER ISOAIMO –I wish to direct my question to the Minister for Lands. It is common knowledge that a lot of land in our districts and electorates were acquired by colonial administration. We have now come into a new era where we have a lot of highly educated and smart people, and many are back in the villages and are coming to Members and District Administrators claiming landownership.

My question is; does the Ministry and the Department of Lands have any plans by way of legislation to protect the interest of properly acquired land by colonial administration to protect the interests of the business community who are into agriculture lease, government into district administration, health and all other services in my electorate, but I suppose the same applies to many electorates in the country.

Mr BENNY ALLAN – Thank you, Member for asking that very important question because I believe he is referring to the 99 year lease given to title holders. It is important because there is a lot of confusion with the lease. A lot of our landowners assume that if the 99 year lease expires, then the land goes back to the landowners.

Mr Speaker, I want to clarify here that this is not the case. If a lease is given to a title holder for 99 years and it expires, it still remains as state land, of which three per cent of land in the country belongs to the state. What happens is that if the 99 year lease expires, than it will be renewed and the organisation or person who leased before will continue to lease from the Government.

This brings a lot of confusion especially in NCD For instance a group from Koiari thinks that after 99 years the lease reverts back to them. You will notice the land along the nine mile area that have been sold to our own people who have settled there. This is illegal, this is still state land and I have asked my department to go and investigate and advise the settlers or the owners that they are settling on state land.

Mr Speaker, sometimes when people are squatting on state land it is difficult to remove them since they have built permanent structures. I want to clarify here to the people of Papua New Guinea, either in Kairuku-Hiri or wherever, that if the 99 year lease expires, the land reverts back to the state. It is renewed by the Government back to the lessee.

I want o also clarify that some of our officers within the Department of Lands at the Provincial level, regional offices and even the head office are going out and working with landowners throughout the country and telling them that they can get millions of kina from

the land that were already acquired under colonial administration, which is part of the three per cent of the land that the state owns.

09/04

They can get millions of kina from land that has already been acquired by the colonial administration which is part of the three per cent Land that the State owns.

For example, in Bulolo, Member for Bulolo I am just taking you as an example. They are going to Bulolo and tell the landowners that you were given salt or axe or five or six pounds, that's not enough, you can get more, so you come and we'll assist you. So, they go and collect money from the landowners.

On Sunday I was with the landowners from Karimui who have already paid K20 000 to a lands officer who went there and collected the money saying they will now sub divide, do a survey on the land at Karimui Station.

I want to tell the nation that there is no such thing like that. If a land is already acquired, it is State land, you cannot get a second payment again. So, as the Minister responsible for land in Papua New Guinea I am discouraging that.

No officer should go and collect money from any Papua New Guineans, we are strongly discouraging that so I am encouraging all our people to not listen to any lands officer who is trying to con you and solicit money from you. This is what is happening now. I want to encourage our Members to inform their people not to entertain lands officers who are coming around.

Supplementary Question

Lands – Grabbing Customary Land

Mr POWES PARKOP – Thank you, Mr Speaker for allowing me to ask a Supplementary Question to the Minister for Lands.

Mr Speaker, I will change the theme of my question but it is still within the ambit of the question raised by the Member for Kairuku – Hiri.

Mr Speaker, in all the cities, Port Moresby in particular but I think this applies to all the urban areas, especially cities and town, State land has been used up. So we are now reverting to customary land and this talk about land grabbing does not apply to State land only, it also applies to customary land.

My question goes like this, does the Minister and his Department have plans to buy land from customary landowners and lease it so that we can expand our cities and towns in an organised way instead of people going in and making deals in all manners?

Mr Speaker, as we speak, if you go to the bush track along Mt Diamond and going towards PAU has already been bought. How can we as municipal government plan cities and towns when all these things are going on? And then landowners are being cheated, left right and centre.

I also wish to know specifically if the portfolio of urbanisation has reverted to his ministry or not?

And if it has reverted to him, does the Minister and Department has any plans to sort out the disaster created by that office at Taurama Valley?

There is no survey and people do whatever they want, how can we plan that area?

Where will the road, water or sewerage go?

We have a disaster in that area, and these are my questions to the Minister.

Mr BENNY ALLEN – I thank the Governor for his good questions with regard to land shortages in land in Port Moresby and other cities and towns. It is true that we need to go out and find more land to expand our towns and cities.

In the beginning of the year I met with all the officers in the Department and raised this concern with them.

Our Customary Lands Division in the Department is responsible for going out and liaising with customary land owners and I raised this with them in a meeting we had at the beginning of this year. I have still to meet with them and find out the progress of this programmes but I think in 2014 we went and opened a satellite town –

10/04

I have not met with them again to discuss the progressive status after our meeting last year. But in 2014 we opened up a satellite town in Boera. So that is one of the good example of what the Governor is talking about.

The government is in the process of installing four satellite town within NCD and Central Province. One of them has been installed already in Boera and another one will be installed in Kwikila district while the other in Sogeri.

I want to thank the Governor for Central Province. We are now in the process of also installing one satellite in 14 mile past PAU and Zenek. Title has been given so when you

drive up that one you will also see the Bill board advertising the proposed satellite town. So we are working closely with the Governor for Central Province and he has already obtained the titles.

In terms of your question regarding land negotiations with the landowners, I will check the progress with the Department.

Mr Speaker, our local Members need to also talk to the landowners not to sell land unnecessarily for K20000 to K30 000. I think a good example can be seen from the Member for Moresby North East. He is sub-dividing a portion of land and have his people resettled at 9- mile commentary. So we are working closely with him too to support his views.

In terms of Urbanisation office, it is not under Lands Department. I think it is on its own. I think, it is under the Department of National Planning. But we probably have failed the urbanisation program at Taurama. Maybe the process was slow and the landowners had their own differences. They did not agree with what the committee was doing so the block holders decided to sell their blocks. We now have a problem because this is no public utilities put in place. There is no water supply, no power and no proper road to drive through.

Mr Speaker, I think we are working together with the Department of National Planning so we are coordinating through that office but not under the Department of Lands.

Police – Peace Operation in Porgera

Mr PETER IPATAS – I direct my questions to the Minister for Police but since he is not available I would like to redirect the questions to the Prime Minister instead.

Mr Speaker, we have been dependent on Porgera Mine for a long time. We have collected revenue from the Mine and also getting other spin off benefits but we have a negative side of it by having enormous law and order situations.

The National Government has been spending a lot of money through the state of emergency through the engagement of police operations and of course recently involving the Defence Force.

My questions are:

(1) Can the Prime Minister and his Government now consider allowing the Provincial Police Command to take charge of the operations in Porgera? This is because we seem to be reengage Police coming in and instead of solving the problems, the problems are escalating?

(2) Can the Provincial Government be a participant and take a leading role in ensuring that there is peace in Porgera?

11/04

The provincial government would also like to participate and take the leading role in ensuring that there is peace in Porgera.

Thank you.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I thank the Honourable Governor for Enga for his question.

Mr Speaker, yes, the government is aware of the continued callout and the presence of the Defense Force and Police around the Porgera Mine area for quite an extended time and we are also concerned about the long presence of that arrangement.

Mr Speaker, it is important that we bring law and order issues back to normalcy as quickly as possible, and I would like to thank the Governor in ensuring that this takes place.

Mr Speaker, we are aware of some of the discussions that are going on between Barrick, the operator of the Porgera Gold Mine and the local police command. The local police command we understand has put in a comprehensive proposal including plans about the control of law and order issues around the Porgera Mine area. Therefore, I would like to assure the Governor that we also support that proposal. This is because it is important that in the long term we build capacity around the area so that they can maintain law and order issues locally.

Mr Speaker, it is important that we work with the communities in and around the mine site area because these are our people and we do not need to handle them in a manner that is unacceptable. Therefore, and once again, I would like to assure the Governor that we will support the proposal that the local police command is putting forward to the mine operators and the government will assist in whatever capacity that it can in terms of providing equipment and manpower to build up the local capacity in Enga Province.

Education – Teachers off the Payroll

Mr JOE SUNGI – My question is directed to the Education Minister.

Mr Speaker, Nuku High School has only eight teachers and out of those eight teachers seven of them are off the payroll. This is also a similar case for teachers teaching at the primary schools. Therefore, I believe that this matter is not only faced by my district but also by many other districts throughout the country as well.

How do we expect teachers to teach in the classroom if they cannot look after themselves?

Mr Speaker, can the Minister inform Parliament, my people and the teachers affected if there is a better and effective process that the Department has to be able to facilitate for an easy way out to have the teachers continuing to receive their pay or to be put back on the payroll immediately.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr NICK KUMAN – Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I would like to firstly apologise for my voice as I have got the flu. Nevertheless, thank you Member for Nuku for your question.

Therefore, let me respond, firstly, last week I tabled a Report which was a response from the Department of Education and the Teaching Service Commission to a Parliamentary Committee chaired by the Honourable Member for Wabag This was in relation to teachers' salaries and all the other issues relating to the terms of conditions.

Mr Speaker, in so doing we have identified some critical issues regarding teachers' salaries. Now, the process begins at the provincial level and then comes to the National Department in order for a teacher to be on the payroll. The issues in regards to teachers not on the payroll could be related to resumption. If teachers do not receive their resumption notice in time before they start teaching is because the process that it takes before it comes to Waigani is quite cumbersome. Therefore, as soon as all the protocols are complied with the Teaching Service Commission has got the responsibility to ensure that they advise the Department of Education to immediately put teachers back on the payroll and this is one of the issues.

12/04

The second issue is that, we continuously have a lot of teachers coming to Waigani during School holidays to enquire about their payments. In the last 12 months that I have with the Department we are taking serious action and I want to see that they must be improvement to the teacher's payment. The teachers must know online a System that can tell them how much they are entitled to through just a simple smart phone. That's the ALESCO system, the pay is processed through Treasury and Finance, we don't really control the actual disbursement of the payrolls but we do manage the system from the Department.

Once again, Mr Speaker, it all starts with a teacher and from the teacher, it comes from the province and is processed through the Department. Sometimes we take heed of those issues because teachers are the most important people in connecting to the students who

are the future leaders of the country and therefore as a responsibilities of the Government, and the O'Neill Dion Government to invest a lot of money in the last three years into education to ensure that we improve and we also have to make sure that those improvements must also include the terms and conditions of the teachers, making sure their entitlements are paid on time, they must be aware of how much they are paid fortnightly and these are continuous management issues that are taking direct control to ensure that we see some improvements in the school systems in Papua New Guinea.

I would like the Member to sit down with me and discuss some of the problems and we can go through together and assist those teachers at Nuku High School who are affected. I can direct the Department to ensure that those teachers are put on payroll and they can be backdated but they are not on payroll, there may be issues that you and I don't know and we need to understand those issues.

MOTION BY LEAVE

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

Leave granted.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS – REARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS

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

That so much of the *Standing Orders* be suspended as would prevent Notice Nos. 258 and 259 of Government Business this day being called on forthwith.

PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT (AMMENDMENT)

BILL 2015

First Reading

Bill presented by **Mr James Marape** and read a first time.

Second Reading

Leave granted to move the second reading forthwith.

Mr JAMES MARAPE (Tari-Pori – Minister for Finance) – I move –

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr Speaker, I rise to present a statement to Parliament on the amendment on the *Public Finance Management Act* on the composition of board members to the Central Supply and Tenders Board.

13/04

I rise to present a statement to Parliament on the amendment to *Public Finance Management Act* on composition of board members to the Central Supply and Tenders Board.

Mr Speaker, the Government has always emphasised to improve and strengthen the procurement process and systems by way of looking into the existing procurement laws and make necessary laws to suit the current economic conditions and development challenges.

It has been in the best interest of our country and our people including our partners and stakeholders to make sure that we as a responsible government is embarking on changes and reforms into the current procurement system and other policy reform areas. The Central and Supply and Tenders Board is the main focus on this procurement reform. This will contribute to improve and strengthen the public financial management system in the country.

Mr Speaker, this government has undertaken major public works infrastructure development than any other governments in the past since independence and more will be undertaken and has experienced that the composition of Board Members of CSTB and the technical skills required to ensure that tender bids are properly scrutinised prior to awarding

of contracts has been lacking. This has been one of the reasons for negative public perception about CSTB in awarding of contracts and possible miss-procurement taking place. The proposed amendment will address the skills gap by bringing on board membership of professional bodies as well as make the public tender more transparent in awarding of major contracts.

Mr Speaker, the current economic and development outlook promises a soaring increase in cost of providing quality goods and services as compared to past. Some of the infrastructure is more than 50 years old but wasn't designed with more than 50 years life span in mind. Several highly prioritized infrastructure projects have not been completed due to lack of overall procurement processes and systems including the composition of the board members of the Central Supply and Tenders Board.

Mr Speaker, communities are becoming more isolated because of deteriorating physical infrastructure. Lack of maintenance and subsequent premature deterioration of infrastructure have both financial and broader economic and social impacts. The premature deterioration of a road for example, results in fewer people having access to health clinics, fewer children attending school and disappearance of livelihoods as villagers can no longer get produce to market.

However, there are a number of interrelated causes which have impact on the infrastructure facility. Capacity constraints, which cover a wide array of issues such as lack of composition of skilled and experienced members of the CSTB for example, inclusion of the members from the organisation that lack industrial experiences.

Mr Speaker, engagement of such inexperience or unskilled members on the board may contribute to awarding of contracts to incompetent or inexperienced contractors and companies. To that extent several highly prioritised infrastructure projects have not been completed due to the ineffective management of the procurement system through the composition of the Central Supply and Tenders Board. In order to meet the current development demand and expectations the composition to the CSTB requires more competent, skilful and experienced leadership to make sound and quality judgement on awarding contracts.

Mr Speaker, the weaknesses in the procurement system has enabled us to review the existing procurement system in order to improve, strengthen and amend the procurement rules that is administered under the *Public Finance Management Act*. This has prompted me, as Minister responsible, to review and amend the composition of Central Supply and Tenders Board. At this juncture let me allude to the fact that further reforms are coming so that the

procurement system must be strengthened to give congruent to the amendments we have in service delivery structures especially the inclusion of the District Development Authority as a development agency in closer to the people.

Mr Speaker, the intention and desire of the government has always been to improve and strengthen the procurement system to meet the development goals and challenges with increased funding especially on infrastructure development. The proposed amendment will help to ensure that procurement of works, goods and services is fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and cost effective. Failure to amend the Act and thus maintaining the status quo will hinder the progress of the country's development.

Mr Speaker, by amending section 39 (3) of *Public Finances Management Act*, on Central Supply and Tenders Board membership, will assist in improving the procurement of contracts, supply of works and services.

14/04

Mr Speaker, the major part of the Public Finance Management Act remains the same as well as the Procurement Procedures, accept the composition of Central Supplies and Tender Board Membership as it amended.

Sooner, we will also fix all our procurement laws as part of reforms of finance and congruence with some of the forms and laws that are currently taking place led by the O'Neill – Dion Government.

Mr Speaker, the rational, behind the manual Section 39 (3) on the composition of CSTB membership is provided on the explaining notes for the Members of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, in consideration on these facts the Cabinet has made a decision through Finance Ministry that the current composition of CSTB Membership be amended as specified to include very experienced skilled and technical expertise on the Board. That is the purpose of this amendment to the Public Finance Management Act.

The detail to the amendment form part of the Bill is now before Parliament.

Mr Speaker, I commend this Bill to Parliament.

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

That the question be now put.

Motion - That the Bill be now read a second time – agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Third Reading

Leave granted to move the third reading forthwith.

Motion (by **Mr James Marape**) proposed –

That the bill be now read a third time.

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the bill be now read a third time – agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

CLIMATE CHANGE (MANAGEMENT) BILL 2015

First Reading

Bill presented by **Mr John Pundari** and read a first time

Second Reading

Leave granted to move the second reading forthwith.

Mr JOHN PUNDARI (Kompiani – Ambum – Minister for Environment and Conservation) – I move –

That the bill be now read a second time.

Mr Speaker, let me first and foremost acknowledge our creator of heaven and earth for his guidance and wisdom and mercy.

Mr Speaker, it is enshrined within our Constitution that God's creation, our environment, trees, rivers, and all forms to be looked after carefully.

We are instructed by God that we have dominion over all creatures great and small and to look after our Mother Earth with extreme care.

Mr Speaker, may I not be the last to remind this Parliament that this is a quest and a divine task at hand.

15/04

Mr Speaker, I acknowledge the Prime Minister. I pay respect to his conviction to ensure that do not follow the paths of other developed countries whom have raped, plundered and destroyed the natural environment that have polluted the airways and over exploited the people and natural resource for the greed of development and self-enrichment.

The leadership of the Prime Minister in this region has been exceptional opening up the world to Papua New Guinea and I therefore congratulate the Prime Minister in presenting this Bill of global significance.

Mr Speaker, my fellow Planning Minister always mention this on many occasions and I must concur. We must be leaders and not followers, we must be innovators and inventors and not just users.

When it comes to the development of our beautiful country, let's all be mindful and made aware that our Papua New Guinea holds unique position that no other country in the world will ever aspire to. We are custodians to the third largest tropical forest in the world and with the greatest biological and ecological diversity, we are truly gifted and blessed.

Mr Speaker, nowhere in the world will you find a butterfly that has the wing span of almost one meter only in Papua New Guinea in our Oro Province. Nowhere in the world will you find an ancient agriculture irrigation system that dates back thousands of years only in Papua New Guinea in the Western Highlands the Kuk World Heritage Site. Nowhere in the world have you had a whole world living in a single nation with 700 different languages only in Papua New Guinea. We celebrate the pride and greatness of our ancient land and our people.

Mr Speaker, I honour the O'Neill-Dion Government on resolving on the climate change issues in Papua New Guinea and the Asia-Pacific region.

This Bill presented before you is the first in the Asia Pacific Region and third only after the United Kingdom and Mexico given the global context. It is unprecedented and signifies the importance of the O'Neill-Dion Government a places on Papua New Guineas very unique Environment or Biodiversity, Eco-systems and its natural resource wealth.

It shows to the global community and especially, those that are worst polluters, our collective call for immediate and urgent action so that they stop polluting our world.

Mr Speaker, the main causes of global warming have being the use of coal and heavy fossil fuel for power generation. Billions and billions of volumes in gases such as Carbon Dioxide, Methane and Nitroxide have polluted the air over the last 100 years. These gases are so excessive that it cannot be reabsorbed by the earth and is trapped permanently as a heavy invisible colourless blanket of gas around the earth.

Mr Speaker, these gases are known as Green House Gases which we all know which have the special ability to trap heat reflecting from the earth back to space.

The heat generated by the greatest cities and civilizations worldwide are trapped by this layer of the Green House Gas, increase in the Green House Gases also lead to more heat trapped. These contribute to global climate change as we know it.

Mr Speaker, the phenomena of global warming affects the global climate, changing the natural climate pattern to one which we have not witnessed in human history before, as such we are now faced with a state of emergency though out the world due to global Climate Change and we have all heard that the President of the United State of America has said that one of the single most challenges of the global community now is the challenge of climate change.

Mr Speaker, the global world now is changed with the challenge to move down two pathways.

One, we must ensure that green technology, clean and green energy and green economy growth initiatives must drive the reduction in pollution from the Green House Gases and utilise more green energy system to utilise the heat from the sun and global warming.

And two, most importantly is to ensure environmental initiatives that protect carbon sinks in the ocean and the land are pursued more vigorously.

Mr Speaker, on that I must reiterate, Climate Change was not caused by PNG, but major polluter like US, UK, China, Russia, Japan and others.

16/08

Therefore, these countries have contributed US\$10 billion or approximately K30 billion to the initial capital of the Green Climate Fund.

As of this month the call for project submission was announced last week and Papua New Guinea will now do submissions for funding. Although we are not heavy polluters but

as a nation as a responsible Government we are mindful of the fact that we are one of the most affected nations and of the Pacific and the world exposed to the dangerous impacts and effects of climate change.

Mr Speaker, as we experience the full impact of climate change on our rural population, we cannot stand by and do nothing about it. We are already relocating people due to the rise in sea level. Crop yields are already changing, malaria or vector borne diseases are increasing in the highlands. Soil erosion and droughts are causing havoc in the coastal villages, while landslips and sink holes are now occurring more frequently. And these are some of the challenges that we have not yet witnessed.

As global communities come together to battle climate change challenges and establish networks for us to access technical and financial support that Government recognises the need for the country to be organised and prepare to address the impacts and to explore the opportunities for global climate change. This Government recognises that global climate change is accelerating faster beyond human imagination and is happening at a pace beyond any Government ability to respond swiftly to our people.

Mr Speaker, the Government of Papua New Guinea cannot be able to respond effectively and swiftly to climate change challenges such as, landslides, rise in sea level, food security, inland flooding and malaria or vector borne diseases by using the current institutional structures, sector policies, governance and legal framework. This Government as a responsible government considers it as a matter of emergency and urgency to immediately address this policy and legal failures in all sectors.

As regional leaders in the Pacific we cannot be the voice of the Pacific and promote our country globally on climate change matters if we are not prepared and organised in our own country, hence this bill. The NEC in a special meeting in July 2014, introduced the National Climate Compatible Development and Management policy and instructed for reforms in key critical policy areas.

Mr Speaker, as a result certain departments have already taken up this transformational change with as the departments of Energy and Petroleum and Public Enterprise developing the clean and renewable energy policy; The Department of Works on climate resilience infrastructure initiative and the Department of Agriculture and Livestock developing the new climate smart food security policy and implementing the climate resilience agriculture project.

Subsequently, the various climate smart policies will result in implementation which the climate change management bill will support and assist. At the provincial level, Morobe,

Madang, Eastern Highlands, New Ireland, East and West Sepik, Southern Highlands, Enga and Manus are going forward with the provincial policies on climate change. This bill will address the absence of legal framework for the National Government to address climate change, therefore strengthen coordination and increase technical and financial support towards the provincial climate change committees and district climate change offices, to deliver real and effective climate change support to our people.

Mr Speaker, alternately, this bill will not only build the climate resilience and increase adaptation capacity for our people but it will ensure we create more green collar jobs for our economy, such as the climate smart infrastructure, agriculture, transport and wind energy sector to increase income opportunities for our people by accessing the green climate fund and other climate change funds around the world.

The bill also recognises the challenges our women face in our rural communities that have amplified to climate change.

17/04

More green collar jobs for our economy such as those in the climate change infrastructure sector, agriculture sector, transport and wind energy sector for our people by assessing the green climate fund and other climate change funds around the world.

The Bill also recognises the challenges of women face in our rural communities which has been amplified by climate change.

Mr Speaker, this legal framework is already brining in confidence and reassurance to Climate Change Financiers across the world. This Bill will ensure that funds are used in a transparent, efficient, effective and accountable manner. I am grateful, that the feedback I have received from colleagues internationally have voiced support and remarked credibility and leadership to the Government in managing climate change issues in the country as well as the Pacific.

Mr Speaker, importantly the Bill fully recognises the most unique gift and that is as custodian of the last reminding natural rainforests in the world. Thus the government want to carefully plan development on the land that sits this last remaining forests. The bill sets provision for future carbon trading to commence and establish an umbrella provision to dovetail a future national carbon legislation in not only recognizing the wealth of ecosystem, biodiversity and rainforest that we have but recognising the ownership of the forest belonging to our people.

Mr Speaker, the international carbon trade legislation is subjected to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change which International Negotiations are still progressing. The respective governments of the World agreed that the implementation of any Market Mechanism for REDD+ Carbon Trade must commence by 2020. Therefore, our Government is committed to have the draft National REDD+ Policy go through thorough reviews with national, subnational consultations subjected to evolving international climate change policy, legal frameworks and agreements from the International Conference of Parties or from the global meetings of Governments.

At this junction, Mr Speaker, I urge all stakeholder, CSO, Landowners forest owners, NGOs to contribute to the National REDD+ Policy consultation currently in progress. I acknowledge partnerships with NGOs such as TIPNG in doing REDD+ Governance awareness and Education. I want to also put on record that the Government is not pushing forward the REDD+ policy to NEC or the Parliament as yet for the very fact that it is in consultation phase, global agreements are inconclusive and no compliant carbon market exists for REDD+ as yet.

Mr Speaker, as a responsible Government, we have learnt from lessons from projects like April Salume Voluntary REDD+ project that there is no immediate windfall of REDD+ payments until a global agreement is reach on REDD+, and when little payments are done, they circumvent government processes disadvantaging our people and exposing them and our resources to more abuse, exploitation and uncertainties, we cannot allow carbon cowboys to continue promising billions of kina, windfall revenue causing anxiety, panic and chaos bordering on cargo cult. This is criminal.

Mr Speaker, this Climate Change Management Bill will ensure it does not happen. It is expected that with the passing of the Climate Change Management Bill the Government can finally have a legal instrument that gives more impetus to all stakeholders to adequately address climate change for the benefit of our people.

Mr Speaker, on ending, I place on record that this bill cements and solidifies our noble services to the Global Community, we have now formalised and legislated both our Clean Energy Service and our Clean Air Service to the world. PNG is now powering the World with LNG and same time providing the lungs of the World. And that is first.

Mr Speaker, Papua New Guinea has committed to the global world to look after its air quality, we want to make sure our atmosphere and the air in Papua New Guinea is always clean and refreshing, absence of smog, air pollution and haze as experienced elsewhere. This commitment is not only for the global community but for our very own people. By

maintaining the highest quality of air standard in our country using our natural tropical virgin rainforest and modern state-of-art clean and green technologies has to offer, we offer service to the world. We call on international climate financiers and respective global governments and leaders to stand up and be counted and to support PNG in this noble cause.

Mr Speaker, I now present the Climate Change Management Bill 2015.

18/04

Mr POWES PARKOP (National Capital District) – I move –

That the Parliament take note of the Paper.

Mr Speaker, this long outstanding Bill which, should have come to Parliament a long time ago but for some reason it has been slow but the important thing is that it is here now. As we speak our people are already suffering from the effects of climate change and our reaction is slow to the challenges that we are facing. As we speak we can see that people living in small Islands are sinking and there is no strategy to counter their predicament. Are we going to relocate them? Is there land available or are we going to protect them and let them remain in their current locations?

We are only paying lip service to this issue, this is my second term in Parliament and we seem to be talking about it but our people are facing a dire situation but we are continuously preaching about it. I wish to emphasise this point but my intention is not to denigrate the Minister but rather I congratulate him.

We are all in support of this, we want to endorse this Bill but we want action. We cannot emphasise enough the issue of climate change and environmental damage we are facing.

Mr Speaker, we are now focused on what is below the ground. We placed a big value on oil, gas, gold and copper and so on, that's good and well but the situation is that those resources are non-renewable. They will be depleted soon.

But, Mr Speaker, what on the surface is more valuable, it will be more valuable in the future than right now and we are not protecting them. The water that we drink, if we don't take care of it, pollute it or allow climate change to spoil it, where will we get drinking water from. Our people in the villages cannot purify the water to a drinkable state for them to drink.

Where will we get clean oxygen if we allow the pollutants to have their way around the globe while we don't find ways to prevent it?

The trees which changes carbon dioxide to oxygen are being logged, it is above the land and yet we value what is below the land more than what is above the land but in the future, if we keep on cutting without replanting, what is above the land will become more valuable to us.

It has sustained our people for a long time, generation after generation and us; this generation, we are at a critical stage where we must determine the future. Our forefathers and ancestors did not dig, cut, hook and sell and we are doing at a very fast pace.

I want to remind us, Mr Speaker, that what is above the land, in future will be more valuable than what is below the land.

The Minister for National Planning has been reminding us about this but we are taking it lightly without serious consideration. He is reminding us that in the near future what is above the land will be more valuable than what we are valuing now.

We have been talking about oil, gas, gold and copper, of course it is important for now, we have to develop it but we must balance it with what is above the land. We must not spoil it. Our ancestors did not deplete it and it has sustained us up to now.

Mr Speaker, we must talk about dual economy. We cannot introduce all our people into the global economy or cash economy. It cannot sustain all our people. It is inadequate. We are lucky that in this country our people can sustain themselves just as their forefathers have done a long time ago. This has enabled the government to gradually assist us build services and infrastructure.

Just imagine if we chop down all the trees and bushes and destroy water and everything that is above the land and force our people to become businessmen and women and rely on cash economy. I tell you we are going to be badly affected. We need to get our people to continue using the skills and knowledge they have acquired from their ancestors in agriculture, fisheries, and to doing it in a sustainable way while we can assist with a little cash income and let them sustain themselves to build a quality life for themselves. We must also check what quality life is, is it to do with lot of money?

19/04

Our people can continue using their skills and knowledge that they have in agriculture and fisheries and manage themselves in a sustainable way. Then we could fund them with a little cash income in order for them to have a sustainable living to build a quality livelihood.

We need to identify what it means to have a quality life for our people. Therefore, does having a quality life mean having a lot of money, or having happiness or being healthy? We

need to define what having a quality life means and I am happy that the Minister is bringing this issue up now.

We need to take this Bill seriously, but it is also a time for us to be cautious and think about where our country is going and what we should value and important to our people for our children in the in the future.

Therefore, I would like to conclude by saying that, through the year's non-renewable resources was important for providing infrastructure and service delivery to our people. Nevertheless, in the near future, if we are not careful to stop and help the world with this Climatic Change and the polluting of the world, what is above the ground will become more valuable than the gold, oil, gas and et cetera that we have below the ground.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, this my contribution that I wanted to give.

Sir MICHAEL SOMARE (East Sepik) – Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, firstly, I would like to commend the Minister for bringing to Parliament the Climate Change Amendment Bill. This is because I am happy that Department of Environment and Conservation taking note of the rise in sea levels, which is affecting our coastal areas and low-lying islands. Even our inland areas are affected by the rise in sea levels. Just before yesterday when I went to visit my home area in Ambunti, I saw how the inland waters and rivers caused soil erosion during floods and washed away of riverbanks.

I have travelled extensively doing awareness about this issue and I am happy that the Minister has also outlined this issue in his statement. I hope that the Minister's statement is not some thesis from some environmental scientist and I hope that it is a reality in itself of what is been expressed here.

The statement indicated to me when I read it that, it was written by someone writing a thesis on environment and conservation and on how you could do it and present it to the United Nations. That was how the statement was read and how I understood the concept of how we could control our environment.

Papua New Guinea is a big country for a Pacific Nation but we cannot assume that our country won't be affected by the changing weather patterns. For those of us who live in the coastal areas the sea is already claiming the land.

Mr Speaker, in my area in the Murik Lakes, I used to reside in the first village but now I reside in the seventh village. This was because the sea has reclaimed the land destroying sago palms and food gardens.

I also went to Manus Province and saw the surrounding small islands having the same problem. In particular, I visited a small island community where Dr Gris also comes from and saw how the island was sinking due to the rise in sea levels. This is the case for the people of Manus Province and other coastal areas throughout the country as well.

The devastations now experienced due to climate change is a very serious matter. God created the world and how the natural environment could sustain itself. When the polar ice caps melt the world's sea levels will rise as more water is added to the world's oceans and this is what is happening to our world.

Therefore, the issue of Climate Change is a very important one and I commend the Minister for bringing this issue forward. The government must take note and address this issue. The details of the Bills were very comprehensive and I think that special attention must be given and special funding should be made available to Climate Change.

I spoke about this issue at the United Nations and at Bali and I made the world take note of climate change and Papua New Guinea led this issue to the rest of the world. Nevertheless, first world countries like Australia today say that climate change is not an issue. And recently Brisbane in Australia experienced snow fall and floods caused by heavy rains in their State, which they have never experienced before in that part of Australia.

Mr Speaker that was an effect of climate change and this is what is happening now throughout the world and Papua New Guinea must be protective over its environment. With that, I told these big mining companies like Ok Tedi to make drainage but these foreigners thought otherwise. As a result in 18 months' time the waters collected and over flowed into the rivers causing environmental damage to the Fly River system.

20/04

When this happened, I told the company to rectify this problem and tails and tailings dam. These were some of the issues that we talked about and tried to address.

When water flows from the mountain and flows back under ground, it refines itself to become clean again and such is what we are talking about here.

Minister, I am happy about that statement and that is a good Bill. You have outlined everything that has been produced and I think the Government must think seriously about this because we will be affected. For those of us on the mountain will be lucky, the Engans will come see the coastal people and feel sorry for us when we are affected by sea level rise and they will also feel sorry for the people of Manus too, but you will also experience landslides.

However, the Engans operating the Pogera mine ought to be careful of landslides. There must be measures in place to control the development methods. If the development is properly planned and there is clean water flowing out then that's good.

Many people are saying that Freda Mine in Sepik will pollute the Sepik River but Mr Speaker, I want to say this, there are intelligent professionals who know how to do these things to avoid such cases. I saw it in Vietnam, where they built a tailing dam to collect all the waste water and the water was filtered and to be consumed again and if this concept is used in Australia and their mines then I can agree with some other mines. That is why we are saying that when Ramu Nickle mine was set up the tailings dam from the pipe should have reached at least over 15 metres into the ground so that the waste released from the dam after being treated will settle at the bottom of the ocean and will not destroy the water on the and from Madang to Sio.

Now you can see that where Ramu Nickle is, there is clean water, and there are living things in the water. Sometimes our people are concerned because they are not well informed, the Government is not giving the information to the people. Minister I commend the Bill and your good statement but I would like to see your plans in your statement become a reality and we take climate change as a major issue for Papua New Guinea. We have emphasised it, we have shown it around the world, when I had my time as the Prime Minister, we have spoken about the issue so many times.

In Denmark, I attended the last two meetings. The Western world is focused on development and they will not worry about the little countries, they forget, and there are more important things for them. To them their economic value is more important than the life of a person, so we in this country need to be mindful of emphasis that are placed on by experts who come and tell us what to do. Experts may say do this it's good for you, but indirectly they are saying you do it and while your people are dying I will be making money. Thankyou.

Mr WILLIAM POWI (Southern Highlands) – Thank you Mr Speaker, I want to commend the Minister for Environment and Conservation for this very important Bill. It is important to Papua New Guinea because climate change affects the world today and it's an emerging issue as we all know.

Mr Speaker, I was in the Prime Minister's Department in 2004, when the Government first conceived this idea about climate change. It was a new concept to government. When the previous Government of Grand Chief had a special task force established and I was a

working committee Chairman of that taskforce and for the Bill to become a law to institute this Climate Change Office, I think we as Government have made significant progress. I want to commend the Government and the Minister for taking this Bill to Parliament in this manner and form. I also realised that this Bill also has its purpose, functions and responsibilities clearly defined which has more than the moored the establishment of this authority.

21/04

Its purpose functions and responsibilities are clearly defined which has bored the establishment of this Authority. I also want to inform Parliament that Climate Change issues affecting our provinces, communities and our villages will be linked with carbon trading and monetisation, regulations, it is time that as a Government establish this office we all need to support this Bill and set policy directions so there is clear position on Government in this important issue that is creating changes and affecting our country today.

Let me commend the Minister and the Government that we support the bill and that it is the most important bill that will regulate changes on the impact of climate change in Papua New Guinea.

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA (Kiriwina-Goodenough – Minister for Forest) – Mr Speaker, I take this opportunity to commend the Minister for Environment for presenting such an important Bill in this Parliament.

Mr Speaker, your electorate is also an area that is covered with vast forest and throughout Papua New Guinea.

We know that apart from Brazil a counter basin, Papua New Guinea is third largest forest cover in the world with so much biodiversity.

However, whilst I support the bill and give my undivided support I also take note that Papua New Guinea with being the third largest forest cover in the world we have 15 million hectors of conducive logging forest. Out of the 15 million hectors that we have, we have already harvested more than 11 million hectors. We are left with 4 million hectors.

That is why I support this bill in its totality. We must save the forest for tomorrow's generation. We must prepare PNG for the changes that is happening all over the globe today. This Bill itself has an element for that change to happen here in Papua New Guinea.

We must protect our resources and the resources that are on top of the ground that Governor for NCD alluded to because tomorrow's generation will be breathing air that is very unsafe.

You don't have to go too far to see it. Our Neighbours in Singapore you will see the air pollution and smoke coming from Indonesia and it causes a lot of problem getting into Asia itself.

Mr Speaker Global green issues are affects are real. For us to conserve our forest someone has to be responsible for saving our forest for the world to breed clean and healthy air.

Mr Speaker, this Bill is an important bill for our participation on bigger international forums on climate change.

Mr Speaker, as Forest Minister I will give my undivided support to my colleague Minister on this Bill because it will bring enormous funding to our country.

22/04

Mr Speaker, you don't have to go far to see effects of climate change in Papua New Guinea. If you want to see a very good example just come with me to visit my electorate. You just have to fly over the islands and you will see that water has clothed the islands.

People are drinking water that is no longer fresh. Gardens today are flooded with salt water from the sea.

Mr Speaker, on behalf of my ministry we are grateful for this Bill and we look forward to supporting the progress of this Bill.

Mr WERA MORI (Chuave) – Mr Speaker, the Forest Minister began by informing us that he will no longer issue new logging licenses in the country. From the outset I take this opportunity to thank the O'Neill – Dion Government and the Environment and Conservation Minister for introducing this policy because the challenges presented is a juggernaut and faceless monster because climate change or global warming is real. It does not discriminate between developed and developing countries. Therefore it is here to stay and we must learn to live with it.

Given the significance of this problem and I believe there are two ways of approaching it. Firstly, we must create a separate Ministry of Climate Change specifically to address this and secondly, The Environment and Conservation and office of the Climate

Change must be given more funding to be able to meet the challenges that's going to be presented beforehand.

Mr Speaker, let me highlight some of the mitigation measures we can take to be able to monitor some of the challenges that will be presented by global warming.

Mr Speaker, I remember growing up in primary school and there were times we would walk up to the district office in Chave and at around 10 o'clock there will be a clerk there and he would be calling on the SSB radio to Lae to send the information of rainfall over the last 24 hours. You may think it is hilarious but bear in mind we have come off a legacy by the Australian Colonial Administration where rainfall was measured every day for over 10 - 20 years. From the rainfall patterns you can be able to predict the weather accurately and plan your programs. But today, given the challenges presented by global warming it is true and good to talk about the problems it is facing and what we can do.

As a sovereign nation we must stand up to the challenge and be able to measure what is happening in terms of global warming.

Mr Speaker, I would like to propose that we must make it mandatory that all the schools in the country for that matter all districts in the country, must be able to record daily rainfalls and be able to present them so that at least we as a sovereign nation can be able to do that for the next 5-10 years. We can be able to measure and establish the new weather patterns to better prepare us for them.

Mr Speaker, sometimes I don't think it is fair to come to this Parliament and grumble about losing roads or bridges or other damages because of cyclone or heavy rainfalls. But if we are able to predict them I am sure that we can be able save lives.

I remember at the geological survey of Papua New Guinea together with the Australian geological survey they would measure the seismic activity in Rabaul and they knew with some fair degree of accuracy when the next volcanic eruption would take place. When Rabaul erupted in 1994 not one life was lost. Is that a record?

23/04

If this is a record then we must now act to take some rainfalls.

Even when it comes to health we must be able to undertake new baseline studies on the new diseases cropping up like in Chimbu where we never had malaria, high instances of malaria but now because of Global Warming the place is becoming warmer and we have a lot of malaria patients admitted to Kundiawa Hospital and even the migration of poisonous snakes that are migrating into the rivers. You may not notice it, not many of you may not be

living in the villages but for someone like me who lives in the village this is practically the reality.

We simply cannot sit here and laugh about it, we must be able to do something and as a way forward as it is only fair that we must give recognition to the Office of Climate Change and it must be adequately funded and we have to basically give them clear directions, especially when it comes to monitoring the weather patterns in the country so that the Government can be able to be in a better position to be able to address them when they occur.

Thank you very much.

Sir PUKA TEMU (Abau – Minister for Public Service) – Mr Speaker, I will be very short to commend our Minister and our Government for bringing this long awaited Policy and now the Legislation. I have only two points to make and I will sit down.

Mr Speaker, the first point is, we though when the Grand Chief was appointed to Co-chair in a coalition of the rainforest nations we felt that our voice was going to be heard at the global level but we fell short.

There was a talk about carbon trade but there was nothing that came out of it since the debate was initiated.

Mr Speaker, I believe the Bill is okay but you all know we are suffering from the effects of somebody else doing, it is not our doing and the developing nations who will all know it is their doing.

So, on this honourable Floor I would suggest that Papua New Guinea take up this fight and provide the leadership at the global level that we support the Prime Minister and the Minister that we resolve on the Floor of this Parliament that we as a nation impacted by global change processes including our smaller Island State.

We, Papua New Guinea's will take the lead in this debate, regionally and globally that is the resolution, I truly recommend because unless we do that it will be like before, we must create a policy within our region lead by us.

Mr Speaker, through you, Prime Minister you made so many decisions for this country in such a short time, I strongly recommend that you take up this global issue and put your voice to it.

We will back you up, the smaller Island Nations will provide the support in the Pacific Games. We need to take up this fight globally that is the first point that I want to leave and this Parliament must resolve to pick up the challenge and it is an opportunity.

Secondly, I want to say that now the law is here, my people want a cattle farm and they will have to cut the forest down.

24/04

Under the green agriculture, I would want to forego the cattle, to protect my rainforest. But what is the option in the country? To all my colleague Ministers, we must work together. Maybe we look at how Israel uses smart technology to drive agriculture. We are using slash and burn. We have to relook at how we have been gardening all these years. I think it's time for us to put a moratorium on new logging projects.

We must make a statement that for no more new forest logging projects in this country. I will be supporting this and I strongly urge that we seriously look at it. While you all have your own experiences, in my own little village Viriolo, all our dead people are under water due to the effects of rising sea level. As a nation responding to the bigger players, we want Papua New Guinea to say that we are trying to save our forests and our policy will be a moratorium on new forest projects.

Mr Speaker, let us urge the Minister for Agriculture to come up with smarter ways of doing agriculture. In Abau, we continue to do slash and burn and with the increase in population, there is not enough land to use. We need to come up with smarter and more innovative ways to do agriculture, where we do not have to cut the forest down. We need to have smarter ways to cultivate in order to create food security in the country.

While I support the bill, I think we have the opportunity to support sustainable development. We can put PNG as a developing nation who has picked up from the lessons of the globe to move forward to sustainable economic and social development in the country.

Mr JIM KAS (Madang) –Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this debate on the paper being brought to Parliament. This bill is long overdue as we have to realise the importance of climate change. In anticipation of what would be brought to Parliament, I just want to share with Parliament what I have been doing in Madang, but before I go onto that, I want to briefly comment on the composition of the board.

The board comprises of persons who are based in Port Moresby. It would be best if selected provincial administrators be included to represent the four regions of the country. This is so they can relate to us in the province. In Madang, I am the provincial Minister for Climate Change and Forestry. That is the only comment I have for the composition of the board.

25/04

In terms of the administrative structure it is okay. For us in Madang Provincial Assembly I am the Provincial Minister for Climate Change and Forestry. I appointed myself and gave this job to myself simply because of what was happening in the province. We feel that climate change is a big problem that has affected Madang Province and in anticipation for what could happen, in Bogia LLG went ahead and came up with a provincial law to deliberate on environment and conservation in that area. In that part the LLG, they have their own local management area with partners who are helping them to talk about managing the forests and their land.

Climate change policies that are deliberated here at the national level are big issues. But there are small things that we have to do in our provinces, so we need partners. We need to be knowledgeable about climate change. There are experts out there such as conservative international, worldwide funds, the nature conservancy and transparency international.

Mr Speaker, this Government in its wisdom has established this policy so that we can work in collaboration with our partners under the triple the program. We can talk about the climate change policy at this level but in order to successfully implementing it we need partners. For the case of Madang we have had the use of our partners who have been doing the mangrove program, the land use policy program, and the reef protection policy program. There is a draft Bill which will be coming before the Madang Provincial Assembly. That is the Environmental Bill which will cater for the land and sea environmental issues.

I commend the Minister for establishing the Blanket Policy. Our challenge now at the Provincial level is to further deliberate and simplify this policy at the district levels. Another thing that we must also do is to incorporate under this Bill a climate change mitigating factors, adoption issues in our planning program.

Mr Speaker, some of the terms and vocabularies used are very scientific and we need to also simplify that so that our people at the Provincial and district levels understand in order to communicate the policy better.

In the same area in Halmami, the US Aid has assisted us to conduct a study on the REDD+ Policy. This is a scientific study which will measure how much carbon is consumed by an individual tree and trees collectively in an area as well as how much oxygen disseminated alike. This report has been produced but is yet to be published so we have not forward a copy to the Minister as a token of appreciation for his contribution to the climate change policy.

Mr Speaker, many of the landowners had thought that billions of kina was involved in carbon trade. This has also conveyed the idea of cargo cult in the Salume Project in West Sepik Province and Koromol Project in Morobe Province.

But I thank the Minister for delaying the REDD+ Policy. We need a lot of information from the experts of REDD+ Policy so that we can further develop it better before presenting it to Parliament to be passed to aide this major climate change which is being propagated.

26/04

Another issue I have and wish to share with Parliament Transparency International and others on the Bill which the Minister has brought forward, is our international partners, especially TI, PNC or WWF who have connections worldwide. They must be fully utilised so they can assist us to understand this subject and further devolve it to the provinces and the LLGs. Otherwise we are going to talk about it here without proper explanation and the misunderstanding will trickle down.

I am just sharing the experiences we have seen in Madang and my thoughts on this Bill and I commend the Minister for bringing this Bill to Parliament.

Thank you.

Mr BEN MICAH (Kavieng – Minister for State Investments and Public Enterprises)
– Thank you Mr Speaker for giving me this time. I wish to commend the Minister for coming up with this very important management policy to govern climate change. I wish to support statements made by previous speakers, especially the Minister for Public Service.

Mr Speaker, Armageddon, the apocalypse or doomsday is not Third World War. It is not the hydrogen bomb or it's not a big massive war that will destroy mankind. Two hundred years ago, since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution the developed nations, invented all the innovations which brought about electricity and other modern amenities which we now enjoy and created cities and improve the living standards of people which led to more people, an increase in population which put pressure on nature.

Mr Speaker, I am sorry to say this, but the world now is heading towards disaster, it is heading towards Armageddon, it is heading towards doomsday because nobody who has the power to stop the process of destroying the very delicate balance that existed in nature has the courage to say, let's stop the plundering of the earth. Let's stop the destruction of something

that we have not created. It is something that an intelligent supernatural being who created all things including us put into a delicate balance that we have now caused to be destabilised.

So, I concur with the views expressed by the Minister for Public Services, Mr Speaker, and Prime Minister, no country in the world has the opportunity at this time other than Papua New Guinea, Brazil and Congo to take the lead in protecting the last remaining sources of oxygen that is able to reverse this Greenhouse Effect on the whole environment in the world.

Should all the major countries of the world stop they are going to die. How will they sustain this expensive lifestyle that you go and see in their big cities the cities are just growing and growing because the population is growing and growing and growing?

In Indonesia land is now becoming less and less because the population is growing. Farmland is now being converted into housing projects. So when there are more houses, then there'll be more people using more power, more cold generation and more Greenhouse Effect.

And in 20 or 50 years' time, as predicted by scientists, the balance of carbon dioxide and oxygen will not be enough to reverse this process or at least to stop it or neutralise it.

Mr Speaker, thank you, Minister, I think the opportunity to pass this Bill which will enable us to see its importance so that we can work with other countries which are concerned and adhere to the warnings from the scientists who are warning the world.

27/04

There were scientists who were warning the world for 30 years since the Rio Conference about the dangers of the Green House Effect caused by the pollution of the air. We must respect the Earth and I would like to suggest to the Minister that we must have a balance between development and the protection of the environment.

As for those of us who are at the districts where logging operations are taking place, we see that these logging companies and individuals just cutting down forests and trees without any regard for environmental conservation.

We need to build our capacity for monitoring the operations of mining, logging and fishing companies that are doing whatever they want to do beyond our monitoring capacity of our agencies that are supposed to monitor the harmful effects of industries on the environment, and on the livelihoods of our people in the rural communities.

Mr Speaker, this only one challenge that I would like to put to the Minister and the new agency, which must collaborate with the Department of Environment and Conservation and

also come under you like forestry, mining, petroleum and energy and even my ministry, which is responsible for power generation. Therefore, we need to work together under this collaborative effort to address all these issues that affect our environment in Papua New Guinea.

With that, I would like to give my strong support to the Minister for Public Service and that our government and Parliament must send out a very strong signal to the world that as the custodian of the world's third largest forest country we are prepared to stand up and be counted on this very important issue that will affect mankind for the years to come.

Thank you.

Mr TOMMY TOMSCOLL (Middle Ramu – Minister for Agriculture and Livestock)

– Mr Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Bill.

Mr Speaker, Climate Change is not a new concept or a new phenomenon. In the early 1970s up until today, this concept that we call Climate Change was then called Global Warming. Therefore, until 1999 there was a call for countries around the world to sign the Kyoto Protocol. On that note, Papua New Guinea at that time was willing to sign the Kyoto Protocol but America, Australia, China and the other bigger countries of the world were not in agreement to sign the Kyoto Protocol.

This Global Warming concept was then changed recently and renamed Climate Change. It was called Climate Change because the world did not want to look back at its history. Many countries therefore did not want to look back into their histories and say, yes, at that time the warnings and signs were there but we did not do what we should have done and that was 25 years ago.

Now, 25 years later we are talking about Climate Change and expect that when we speak from this Parliament the world will listen to us. Nevertheless, at this juncture, I would like to take this time to commend the Minister for Environment and Conservation for taking this lead.

The task here is very difficult because Climate Change is not an issue localised to Papua New Guinea. This issue affects the world today and all the countries as well. The solution therefore calls for all the countries in world to resolve this Climate Change issue.

Mr Speaker, Climate Change is the increase in temperature in the atmosphere and that increase is caused by the increase in population growth around the world today. Because of the high population growth including the population growth in Papua New Guinea, which at

about 3.1 percent. This growth rate is very high compared to the economic development ratio to the population.

Mr Speaker, the increase in population demands the harvest of more resources in order to feed the demand of this population. As a result, more resources is needed and many bigger countries do not want to look back at little countries like Papua New Guinea who are calling for a collective action that the world should take.

28/04

In fact, when we talk about climate change we also need to remind ourselves that the first refugees from climate change come from Papua New Guinea and these are the Caterers Islanders from Bougainville. It is fitting for the Minister and for this Government to take the leadership role in creating that awareness.

Mr Speaker, the *Constitution* of Papua New Guinea calls for us as leaders to conserve the biodiversity of this country. Biodiversity is the flora and fauna, our environment, but if you reflect on the way we have been harvesting our resources, we have taken very little care of our biodiversity, this Bill today, which would become an Act will now provide the way we should manage and conserve this biodiversity. Papua New Guinea is blessed with a lot biodiversity that other countries in the world don't have.

Mr Speaker, Papua New Guinea boasts of the third largest forest area outside of Congo and Brazil. Without having to go into detail discussion on the forest we can only reflect on the way we have been harvesting our Forest. On the other hand, we can also reflect on the benefits that have come from harvesting of that forest to our people. If you look at the forest industry, yes, it does contribute a lot of money into PNG, but the real question is, has it helped to improve the livelihood of our people who own the forest, that is the real question that remains outstanding. The first people in Papua New Guinea to suffer from loss of forest are the people of the Gogol in Madang as a result of harvest of timber by Gents Company at that time.

Mr Speaker, this Bill will address the issues of biosecurity. Not so long ago, I said that we will place a ban on uncooked poultry products because it is through this kind of animal feeds and products and by-products that new emerging diseases are entering Papua New Guinea.

Mr Speaker, the responsibility of protecting our biosecurity is very important for the future economy of this country. There is one disease that is crippling the coconut industry, today is called the Bogia coconut syndrome. The Bogia coconut syndrome that has resulted from

climate change. As the temperature increases, and the climate becomes hotter, the syndrome increases and it has destroyed the industry and will continue to do so, even if we put a lot of money to stop the increase.

Mr Speaker, not only coconut is affected, this disease is spreading into banana and it will affect our rural people. This disease if uncontrolled will also destroy the oil palm industry which provides almost K2 billion annually to our budget.

29/04

It will destroy the Oil Palm Industry which provides almost K2 billion annually to our Budget.

This makes the Bill a very important Bill. It is this issue that threaten not just our people's health but also our economy.

Let me take you to the agriculture sector, we all talk about the issues of the Coffee industry and we want to blame Governments for not putting enough money and not having the right policy direction but we don't realise that in Papua New Guinea 95 percent of coffee we produce is 'Arabica Coffee' and the peak condition for Arabica coffee to grow is between 13 degrees calicos and 24 degrees calicos.

Mr Speaker, in which part of this country do we have that kind of climate when Arabica Coffee was introduced almost 70 years ago? Many, many years ago, the conditions were there to grow Arabica coffee. Today these conditions are no longer there, up in the Highlands. The temperature in Goroka is around 32 degrees Celsius and Arabica can no longer grow in Goroka anymore. That is the kind of threat I am trying to show and illustrate that it does not only affect other sectors but it also affects the agriculture sector. Many times we want to blame the Government and claim that the solution is for Government to provide more money.

Mr Speaker, let me inform this nation and this Parliament that Arabica Coffee in years to come will disappear from Papua New Guinea. It is, Therefore, incumbent on the leaders here in this Chamber to start investing in Robusta because the conditions in the Highlands today are good for Robusta to grow.

Mr Speaker, I also want to say that climate change is here and the solution to it lies in adaptation and mitigation. So it is very important that when we are planning in our sectors for development we must ensure that this development is sustainable and our people can adapt if there is a change in the environment and the atmosphere. We must ensure that this change promotes mitigation so that our people can survive.

Mr Speaker, without having to say much let me say that this calls for a Government and this nation to start develop smart climate change programs and projects.

Mr PETER O'NEILL (Ialibi-Pangia – Prime Minister) – Mr Speaker, I also rise to commend the Minister and his department for putting together a comprehensive legislative framework that will manage the climate change challenges in our country for many years to come.

Mr Speaker, climate change challenges are not only confined to Papua New Guinea as many speakers have stated earlier but as a region in the Pacific it is more evident than anywhere else in the world.

Because smaller countries like Kiribati are now looking for land elsewhere so that they can resettle their communities. Of course we have our own issues in places around Bougainville and some of our island communities who are facing similar challenges.

That is why as a region Papua New Guinea needs to stand up and speak for many of these regional countries who are not able to stand alone and be heard in many of the international forums that address climate change issues.

30/04

Mr Speaker, it is about the survival of many of these communities and their way of life, the safety of their communities, food security and about how their communities can survive into the future.

In December PNG will be asked to Chair one of the meeting conference of parties in Paris on Climate Change and that is an enormous responsibility. This is an occasion where Papua New Guinea can highlight many of the challenges that we face in Papua New Guinea and in the region.

Mr Speaker, the global community has not come very far on this issue. Since the Kyoto Protocols that many nations signed up to, of the leading polluters in the world as we all know have failed to sign up to those protocols. Those leading polluters are dictated to by big businesses. So corporate interest has taken over the debate on the issue of climate change global and as a result we are not able to even agree on the carbon trading scheme. But what we need to stress is that it is not about countries like Papua New Guinea and all the smaller island countries trying to have access to money only. It is not about accessing funds that are being promised by the global community. It is about trying to ensure that many of this global polluters try and change their way of doing business so that they can reduce the emissions

into the atmosphere. That is what we are trying to do and that is the sort of message we should be putting forward. It is not about getting money of businesses. That is the fear that they have that the bottom line is that they are driven by profits.

I think we need to get the message across where we can tell them to conduct their business but do it in a more friendly way so that climate change issues are being met and of course it does not affect changes around the global community.

Mr Speaker, also there will be need for some funds that was promised by the global community which some communities need urgently for resettlement and circumstances of migrating because of rising sea levels.

Mr Speaker, what we need to do is not necessarily wait for the global carbon trade scheme to be established. As Papua New Guineans we must encourage countries who are willing to put money into a global fund that is easily accessible by countries in our region like Kiribati, Tuvalu, Palau and all the smaller countries who are really at the forefront battling with climate change issues.

Mr Speaker, Papua New Guinea is one of the very few countries in the world when we passed this legislation. I think amongst only three countries in the world since the debate started over 25 years ago on climate change. People have been discussing through in international conferences for many years of which PNG has been part of but there was no legislative framework to manage these issues.

Today's legislation is not only about managing climate change and the effects in the global settings but also about managing our own development agenda, how we manage our forestry industry, mining industry, our fishing industry where development of these industries have contributed to the detriment of our environment.

Mr Speaker, we must learn from the experiences of many other countries. It is evident before us. You look at places like Africa where they repeatedly have gone ahead and cut down timber and many places have turned into deserts that cannot even produce any food on those barren land. You look at places like China, fast growing developing country with very massive modernization that is transforming the landscape of China but look at the pollution that is created to the environment.

31/04

When you go to places like Beijing you cannot even see the sky and these are the kinds of experiences that we must learn from. Indonesia is are cutting and burning bushes and they

pollute the entire region it will not be long before we see the smoke coming over to Papua New Guinea.

So, as a country, we need to be responsible, we need to manage our environment in a responsible manner and that is part of that Medium Term Development Plan that the Minister for Planning continues to talk about in terms of managing our fisheries and forest. I am pleased to hear that the Government will ban the round log exports by 2020 that is a decision that Cabinet has taken.

We have limited the issuing of timber permits to only about ten projects. That decision was taken by the last Somare Government which we are enforcing. There will be no more timber permits issued to anybody. We do not necessarily have to cut down all the timber in this country.

We need to find smarter ways in developing our country rather than just cutting timber, recklessly fishing and destroying the environment that our future generations will not have the opportunity to enjoy.

Mr Speaker, I also want to talk about population, Papua New Guineans need to start listening to what the Government is saying to reduce the number or the size of our families and that is the message that we as a responsible Government must tell our communities because population affects environment, more population means more gardens, more cutting down of timbers and the list goes on.

I think it is important that we have decent size families so that we can be able to give them quality of life and of course we can work together in reaching that.

Mr Speaker, as I said before, this is a Bill that complements the other strategies that the Government has got including some of the factual management we are doing in the mining about tailing dams.

We are not going to give more mining permits to anybody who is not prepared to do tailing dams, we are not just a dumping ground for any country or any miner who comes into this country.

We must take responsible position it is no use talking about it 20 years later that we should have done this. We must learn from the experience of places like Ok Tedi and Bougainville where we failed to build tailings dams and as a result we have affected the entire river system.

Mr Speaker, we owe it to our future generations that we take this responsible development agenda and this particular Bill goes a long way in addressing that, I ask this

honourable House to work closely with the Minister and his department and I commend the Minister for this Bill.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

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

That the question be now put.

Motion – That the Bill be now read a second time – agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR - GENERAL

A message from His Excellency, the Governor-General dated 22 July 2015 was announced recommending the expenditure of Public Monies of Papua New Guinea in accordance to *Section 210* of the *Constitution* and insofar as the bill relates to and provides for such expenditure.

Third Reading

Leave granted to move the third reading forthwith.

Motion (by **Mr John Pundari**) proposed –

That the Bill be now read a third time.

Motion – That the question be now put – agreed to.

Motion – That the Bill be read a third time – put.

The Bill requiring an absolute majority of 56 Members as required by the *Constitution*, Mr Speaker ordered that the bells be rung.

**REGIONAL RESETTLEMENT – ASYLUM SEEKERS TRANSFERRED
TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA – MINISTERIAL STATEMENT –
MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Debate resumed from 18 September 2013 (see page...).

Mr JAMES MARAPE (Tari-Pori – Minister for Finance) – Thank you for giving me the opportunity to stand up and speak on the regional resettlement of asylum seekers.

Mr Speaker as part of the global community and especially merging regional leader in the Australia Pacific Region, in good faith we have accepted as a government and allowed for asylum seekers to be resettled and to have the asylum processing facility established in Manus.

I rise to bring this discussion back in lieu of the fact that we have had social issues and criminal issues lately. Today's paper and yesterday's news continue to run issues that have taken place on the asylum processing centre in Manus.

Mr Speaker, I am resuming this debate because important national conversation is now taking place amongst the many forums as well as in the social media and in the caucus this morning in what is really taking place in the processing centre in Manus.

Mr Speaker, amongst the many issues I take note of the fact that there was, a rape incident as reported that took place in the processing centre as well as criminal activities currently being exposed there too especially in light of some of our workers there. Some of these workers were evacuated out of the country after committing offences that are criminal in nature in Papua New Guinea.

Mr Speaker, let me commend the Office of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister has directed for total investigation into what has happened and the circumstance that led to the rush evacuation of those who purportedly were engaged in those criminal activities at the detention centre.

As a leader of this country, I strongly condemn those activities that took place in the asylum centre. Many times these activities continue to paint a negative image on our country at international media.

Mr Speaker, for starters we never invited the problem of asylum into our soil. It is not our doing as a nation. Firstly, when it happened, Mr Speaker, you realised that PNG was heavily criticised by the Australian media.

May be it was their strategy to propagate an image that PNG is not a safe place for those who are jumping on boats to come to Australia because you will eventually end up in PNG and we were branded.

I note and it will go on *Hansard* in the speeches that I am making, as a leader, I feel I am entitled to my right to speak. And it hurt me, for instance, when PNG was branded as a third world nation. Of course we are, but we are an emerging third world nation. We were branded seriously as a criminal infested land, a place that is not safe for anyone.

And that is part of the strategy, in our view, Mr Speaker, to stop people from jumping on boats to go to Australia.

We did it with no second thoughts. As a good neighbour to Australia, as a friend extending a hand out because we are a good member of the region in a good neighbourhood, we tried reaching out to the Australian people and the Australian Government by allowing for a processing facility to be established in Manus. And hopefully in that scheme of things we'll discourage more asylum seekers to continue to come to Australia. Now for us to continue to stand to receive negativity in the media especially on things that are not of our doing is something that continuous to run against the grain in some of our minds. This is totally bad.

I commend the Prime Minister for putting up a call for investigation into what has happened lately in those latest criminal activities, especially by our guests in the country, those who come and find employment in opportunities that were created by the asylum processing centre. It is fair and I speak today and as I make this call, if we can have Papua New Guineans facing the Australian judicial system and Australian justice system for criminal offences committed in Australia, it is only fair that Australians taken out of this country be brought back to face issues of criminal nature in PNG.

This is an exchange programme which is bi-lateral by nature of practice in the justice system. We have Papua New Guineans facing the Australian justice system because they have broken laws in Australia and we have no right to complain about that. They have broken Australia laws per se and the judicial system down there will establish whether they broke the law or otherwise and the penalty will be dispensed accordingly.

And in this instance with the companies involved, I recommend strongly that the findings be established and these sorts of companies who try and protect employees who break laws in this country be terminated immediately, forthwith from doing business in this country. They have no respect whatsoever for laws that govern this country, they must not do business in this country.

And so I join in supporting the Prime Minister for the investigation team that he has established that will ascertain facts surrounding what is transpiring up there in Manus insofar as those criminal activities are concerned. Whether they are international workers or domestic Papua New Guinean workers, we do not expect rubbishing of our country by criminal activities that is taking place in that detention centre.

The detention centre is a facility that PNG has suffered immense name tagging that is not good for our image and so we do not expect that workers, whether they are Papua New Guinean or foreign workers who are in employment in those centres to continue to engage in those criminal activities that will be used by the media, domestic as well as international, to continually paint a bad picture of Papua New Guinea. And so Mr Speaker, I take this time to debate this issue.

35/04

I would like to speak, but I know that maybe this is not an appropriate time and some may see me as a Minister trying to speak on this issue.

It saddened me, when I visited Manus Province some times last year and saw that the road that runs from Momote Airport to the town where the Asylum Processing Centre is. It used to be a good passable road when there was no heavy movement of trucks. The road was used by heavy trucks for the construction of the asylum centre, which resulted in the road deteriorating.

Therefore, I embarrassingly admit that we did nothing to restore that road and we appreciate the market that the Australian Government is building. Nevertheless, the least we could expect are simple things like roads and other infrastructures that could be worked upon by the government so that beautiful Lorengau Town could be given a facelift. This is because the processing centre will be there for a long run. This is something that the Government together with the Australian Government can make changes on so we can give the people of Manus decent services while we are providing other services to compliment the processing centre being placed up there.

Mr Speaker, by way of discussion, let me conclude my debate in this matter for it has been on our Notice Paper since 2013 when our Minister for Foreign Affairs presented a paper on the Asylum Seeker issues. Therefore, I thought that this afternoon we could discuss this matter in light of the criminal incidents that have happened at the centre recently. Also, I stand to condemn the rush evacuation of criminal elements who worked with the companies that are operating there.

Therefore, I call upon the two governments, especially the Government of Australia to help us apprehend the criminals who were evacuated out of Lorengau and from PNG into Australia. Therefore, we expect them to assist us with bringing these criminals back to face the music in our own judiciary system in PNG.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr BOB DADAE (Kabwum) – Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Firstly, I am in support of the sentiments expressed by the Leader for Government Business and to say a few things in regard to his statement.

Papua New Guinea is respected by many countries of this world because of one of our many cultures, and that culture is to be very friendly to others, which we like to call the Melanesian Way. This is a culture that you will not find particularly in the modern world where to be friendly and helpful to other people is not always practiced by many.

Therefore, I believe that it was in the spirit of the Melanesian Way that we decided to help our friends and the international community who were having this problem of being put into a place to be properly looked after and make decisions as to where they could be settled permanently.

And so, in the spirit of the Melanesian Way and also Papua New Guinea being a Christian country it was our obligation to look after other friends. So, in the spirit of that, our government had made that right decision to allow them to come and be accommodated in Manus to be screened.

I personally supported that endeavour except that there was another decision that was taken without the endorsement of this Parliament as it was done outside to allow these friends to be screened and settle in this nation.

36/04

It is the only thing that makes some of us sceptical and we have our reservations about those asylum seekers being eventually settled in Papua New Guinea. I don't think that was the original intention; the intention was to settle as temporary vacation in which their future can be determined as whether to go back to their countries of origin or to be settled in other countries.

Papua New Guinea is a developing nation and we have a lot of problems and we have development issues and our primary role is to look into the developmental needs of our own people. We are not a developed nation where we can take anybody into this country and use

were worry about their problems while forgetting our own problems. I think this second issue of trying to settle these people into our country must be carefully consider and any decision on that must be brought to the Parliament and all the members must express their views about whether we should settle them here or not. From experience, with due respect to the Muslim followers all over the world, a very small segment of this religion are too extreme and we start settling people of this religion in this country, we are putting the future of our generation into very serious trouble, their lives will be at risk.

We must take the experience of the nation's today, countries like England and Australia, we don't need to look far. It could be safe today but what is the guarantee tomorrow, and so we have to consider all these factors and make some decisions about whether they should be settled here or not. Leaving them there temporarily to be screened is okay but for permanent settlement that is something that the Parliament must decide on and not the Office of the Foreign Affairs Minister or whoever because we are talking about the future of our children and their children. That part must never be allowed until a decision is made in Parliament and that is my proposal.

Secondly, our people of Manus were friendly enough to allow us to establish the detention centre there but when it comes to the benefits of that establishment, most of the people of Manus miss out, in terms of employment opportunity. Construction and other jobs are given to the people from outside, not Papua New Guineans. The Manus people must be given a good deal, if we want to continue with the detention centre there. So my proposal is that we must be careful when we want to settle those people who are in the detention centre in this country.

37/04

Any decision to do that must firstly come through the Floor of Parliament and not outside of here. Secondly, the people of Manus must be accommodated in any deal that relates to establishing that detention centre. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr SAM BASIL (Bulolo – Deputy Leader of the Opposition) – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I too want to join the debate on that issue and I thank the Leader of Government Business for introducing debate on that issue.

I do not wish to question the role that the PNG Government has in this region to partner with regional friends to take on such responsibilities nor do I wish to debate the religious issues that comes with this debate.

Mr Speaker, what I want to raise is the ability of the Papua New Guinea Government in terms of current status of health, education, and law and order. We are struggling to look after our own citizens so we have to be very careful. I support the Member for Kabwum who suggested that the resettlement issue must be brought back to Parliament to be discussed because as a nation it would be injustice for these people if we allow them to come and settle here. This is because we do not have the facilities to cater for those new population that we will be adding on to our already existing and struggling population.

I am saying that because I agree that we should share the responsibility with the Australian Government in setting up the asylum centre to realise those people into the community. If not then we can target an island like Manus and maybe the donor country can make sure that they upgrade all the facilities there. So that when they are realised they have a job and go to school and have proper health facilities, but as I have said, it would be an injustice to those people if we allow them into our society because we are only going to add more problems to our problems that we are facing and can't solve. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Sir MICHAEL SOMARE (East Sepik) – When I was in Government, I agreed to have the asylum seekers settle in Manus for a temporary period only. We were told that they would be here only for about 6 or 9 months and then they would be sent back to where ever they came from. I was wrong in listening to them and letting them set up the centre in Manus. We have our own local people of Manus living there too.

Some of those asylum seekers are trouble makers in their country and Australia should have kept them in the Northern Territory. From Western Australia to the Northern Territory, there is a big mass of land that they can keep those people. Why don't they use their own land to settle those people? They came purposely to go to Australia because of money and job opportunities and the services that they can get there and not Papua New Guinea.

Mr Speaker, I thought with good intentions that Australia had us to cater for those asylum seekers. Now that they are causing us problems we have to put up with it when I thought Australia should be the ones dealing with their problems. I am not pleased with what the Australian Government is doing. I am a very good friend to them and do not hold anything against them but I do not agree with them regarding this issue.

Mr Speaker under my Government we set a condition where these settlers were going to come in here for 9 months and can go back to the choice of their country. It was never intended for them to come and permanently reside in Papua New Guinea. No.

There ways are different from ours. They are white man. They were civilized way before we become civilized. After fleeing their countries they have found that Papua New Guinea is trouble free and they have come here. It should be better for our nation to send them back to wherever they came from.

We must reconsider this deal and put it to the Australian Foreign Minister to look for an island in Australia in the Northern Territory or Western Australia or the Annam land which is literally empty no settlers there. Australia has enough resources and they should convert that Anam land which is a desert and build a settlement for these people. They know that Australia is a rich country and they all want to go there.

They chose Australia because they heard of Australia and when they came to Indonesia the Indonesians didn't want to have anything to do with them so they chose Australia and sent them there. All the South East Asians didn't want them so they all decided to choose Australia. They thought that everything falls from Heaven in Australia and better more we should just send them back to Heaven.

Mr WESLEY NUKUNDI (Dei) – Mr Speaker, let me also join my colleagues in contributing to this Asylum Seekers dilemma.

I must say that this will not be the last time we will be discussing this matter on the Floor of this Parliament. Because those refugees who are in the Manus will continue to create problems. They have created some problems already and it will continue.

Mr Speaker, what is the guarantee there that they are not going to create any problems for us. We have our own problems that need to be sorted out yet.

The initial thought that I had was that they were going to settle there and we will process them and in no time they will go back to the choice of their country. Why are we going to resettle them here in our country? This foreigners will contribute to more unemployment when we have our own Papua New Guineans who are on the streets looking for employment. Why will you accommodate a foreigner? We will eventually help them to start business. But let me ask, how many business opportunities have we created for our people and we want to start off foreigners to start their business. It makes no sense.

We have enough problems on our hands. So as leaders representing our people on the Floor of this Parliament we must put it out and let's bring this Asylum seekers issue to an end.

The Manus detention processing centre was originally meant for processing asylum seekers and sending them off on their way out of this country. We have to make a stand not to resettle them back here and this should be the first and last detention centre in our country.

39/04

We must only utilise the detention centre in Manus as the processing place and sent them back to their respective countries. We must make our stand clear on this issue and not to resettle them here, and make it first and last and not to accommodate more burden on this refugees crises again. We got so many domestic issues to address but yet we ignore it and continue to accommodate these refugees and they give us a lot of problems, these people will continue to give us more problems.

Can someone tell me if our people go to other countries like Australia or Indonesia and cause problems there, will they have mercy on them and accommodate our people there? I don't think so they will lock them up straight away and won't give them second change. Now what have we have done to whoever caused this problem in Manus? We just ignored it and they escaped without facing the law of this country, and here we are jumping up and down. We got our rule of laws so bring this person back by applying extradition orders and let him face the laws of this country. What's really stopping us from doing that? If we had done that we won't be debating on this Floor of Parliament now. The onus is on the Minister for Foreign Affairs to make it happen. We must learn from this mistake and not to repeat this again in future but if we don't take note of this mistake and let it go then I tell you there is more problems to come tomorrow. We must solve this issue right now by sending those refugees back to their respective countries and put a stop to accommodating refugees again. We have enough of our own problems on hand to solve. One pressing problem right now is; we are not taking care of our own people in terms of creating jobs for them and so on. There are lots of University graduates roaming the streets. Yet you want to create jobs and allow them to do business right in the face of your own people. Whose interest are we serving, your own University graduates or those refugees? It really make no sense at all. In terms of the business wise are the people from Manus benefiting from the spin of benefits such as cleaning services, construction work and catering services or not? The people there are not benefiting at all because all these problems were created by us leaders so we must solve these

problems. If we let it then we must not come here and debate on this Floor of Parliament if another problem arise on this same issue. So the easy way out is to stop accommodating this people, thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr MALAKAI TABAR (Gazelle – Minister for Higher Education, Research, Science & Technology) – Mr Speaker, I thank you and want to contribute in this debate. I also want to thank the Leader of Government Business and the other leaders in expressing their grievances on this issue, especially on the media coverage done by Minister for Finance and Leader of Government Business. This is a very big issue and we have to consider it seriously. To summarise on the grievances brought out by other Parliamentarians is that effectively we can review this agreement between Australia and PNG on this processing centre. When they first started they called it processing centre but now they have changed it to Asylum Seeker.

40/04

It was initially a processing centre but now what has become of it. The United Nations Commission for Human Rights are not saying anything about this and I believe they should share the responsibility with us to review the agreement. The review should look at the negativity shown through the media.

When you mention the name Manus in Australia, there is bitterness shown in the faces of the population there. They do not want to hear the name Manus. We know the place is beautiful and the people are peace loving and simple but because of the publicity it has through the establishment of the processing centre, the name Manus is a name not worth mentioning in Australia.

Mr Speaker, I believe the Government has to discuss and review this agreement. The agreement was reached for its economic benefits to the people of Manus but right now most of the projects, like the road and the market in Lorengau have yet to be completed. When we do the review we need to impose new understanding into the agreement or it would be better if we go back to the regional agreement to have the asylum seekers stay for nine months period be processed and sent back to Australia or wherever they are to settle after that.

I believe we are at the stage where we have to review this agreement soon. We have to work closely with the organisations responsible to assist us in creating better understanding because here we are dealing with human beings. We have to do things correctly so all parties involved will be happy to create peace and harmony. While we agreed to host the processing

centre in the country, we are attracting very bad attention globally and Australia whom we are assisting is not doing its part, so we are faced with a lot of burden as well.

We have to agree to review the agreement and make sure all the arrangements are done properly according to the terms of reference of that agreement. With due respect to the asylum seekers, we are going to make the review to benefit all. Because one area of concern is that the asylum seekers were not brought into Manus to be processed and stay there. They are to be processed and Australia will take them back or have them sent wherever, not to settle on Manus.

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

That the question be now put.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 3:05pm