

**SIXTH DAY**

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**Wednesday 8 June 2016**

**DRAFT HANSARD**

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## SIXTH DAY

Wednesday 8 June 2016

The Acting Speaker (**Mr Aide Ganasi**) took the Chair at 10.00 a.m..

The being no quorum present, Mr Acting Speaker stated that he would resume the chair after the ringing of the Bells.

Sitting suspended.

Mr Acting Speaker again took the Chair at 10.30 a.m. and invited the Governor of Morobe, **Honourable Kelly Naru** to say Prayers:

‘Long nem blong God triwan, Papa, Pikinini na Holi Spirit, God Papa mipla tok tenk yu long wanpela taim moa yu bungim mipela long haus blong yu. Olgeta lida blong yu, pipol imakim long mipla kam mekim toktok na skelim tingting igoikam long gutpla sindaun blong pipol blong yu na gutpla blong displa kantri.

God Papa mipla ikam wantaim planti nogut blong mipla bikos displa graun em ipulap long planti nogut olsem na mipla tu ipulap wantaim dispel nogut na mipela ikam.

Mipla iwokim sin insait long tingting na toktok na pasin nogut long wokabaut blong mipela wanwan. Olgeta dispela pekato blong mipela yu save pinis long ewm. Mipla askim yu long nem bilong Kraiss, yu ken sori long mipela, yu ken marimari long mipela, yu ken bel isi long mipela na lusim olgeta nogut bilong mipela.

Pulmapim mipela wantaim gutpela tingting, pulmapim mipela wantaim bei isi blong yu, bel isi blong yu iken stap wantaim sia bilong dispela haus long dispela de. Bel isi blong yu iken stap wantaim Praim Minista na Deputi Praim Minista na olgeta ministas blong em. Bel isi blong yu iken stap wantaim Oposisen Lida na Deputi Oposisen Lida na olgeta lain blong Oposisen. Bel isi blong yu iken pulap wantaim mipela olgeta.

Na dispela sem bel isi long dispela gutpela Spirit blong yu em iken pulap long olgeta lain blong mipela arasait, ol pikinini blong mipela long univesiti, ol lain blong mipela long strit, long ol lain blong Ngo, long kankain ol sectas blong dispela komuniti, dispela bel isi iken pulap wantaim ol tu. Na insait long dispela bel isi mipela iken painim wanbel na mipela iken mekim wok blong yu.

Tenk yu O God. Amen.’

## QUESTIONS

### **National Housing Corporation – Duran Farm Housing Estate**

**Mr MAI DOP** – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker for recognising the people of Jimi.

Mr Acting Speaker my series of questions are directed to the Minister for Housing, but since he is not in I would like to re-direct the questions to our Prime Minister.

Mr Acting Speaker, our economy is growing at a fast pace and as the economy expands so does the workforce. For the workforce to maintain a high level of productivity to support this growth they need to have access to housing, a decent home for themselves and their families.

Mr Acting Speaker, with a decent home the workers will be happy and will continue to provide their labour and we'll continue to use the fruit of their hard work and their taxes roll out services for the entire country to benefit from.

Mr Acting Speaker, the growing squatter settlements of Port Moresby and Lae cities tell us a very sad story. Government over the years have failed the people. When we came into office four years ago this government made a commitment to address this chronic issue. We are 10 months away from the next election and yet not a single house has been built by the National Housing Corporation under this programme.

**02/06**

Mr Acting Speaker, my questions are:

(1) What has become of the massive housing project at the Duran Farm just outside the city? After millions of kina have been allocated to the National Housing Corporation, not a single house has been built.

(2) Has this project been abandoned?

(3) Is it true that NHC has decided to sell off blocks of land at the Duran Farm to raise funds to meet operational expenses because it has no money?

(4) Can the Minister confirm or deny that the foreign company initially brought in as a partner for the project has sued NHC for breach of contract resulting in the delay?

(5) If mismanagement and corruption at the NHC is hampering progress, will the Minister suspended the management and allow a full scale investigation into its operations?

Mr Acting Speaker, in a country as richly blessed as ours, housing should be a right for all citizens and not a privilege for a handful.

**Mr PETER O'NEILL** – Thank you Mr Acting Speaker and I thank the Member for Jimi for his good questions.

Mr Acting Speaker, I want to confirm that this Government has tried to make an intervention where housing is a big issue in many of our urban areas throughout the country. In fact, Mr Acting Speaker, when we came into office, we immediately put in a program together.

Apart from National Housing Corporation building new houses and new development throughout the country, we put a program together with BSP where our Government invested K200 hundred Million kina. It is now parked there and borrowed by Papua New Guineans at a very concessional rate of four per cent per annum and about 40 year period to repay that loan.

Mr Acting Speaker, this is enabling thousands of Papua New Guineans all around the country to borrow money to build houses for their families.

Mr Acting Speaker, we need to continue to strengthen programs like that and some of those initiatives that we are undertaking to try and address the chronic housing problem in the country. But Mr Acting Speaker, in respect to Duran Farm, yes, we are also equally disappointed that after spending money there to develop the blocks by constructing roads, power and water, we have yet to build a single house.

Mr Acting Speaker, part of that has been related to individual titles under the subdivision not been made available quickly. But from the briefing that I'm getting, almost a thousand blocks are already being issued now and they are talking to Papua New Guineans and also to the developers in trying to develop those houses. For the benefit of the Member, I will get the Minister to submit a detailed report to this Parliament so that the Member's question can be adequately answered on the details of the building and construction of the houses at Duran Farm itself.

### **University Students**

**Dr ALLAN MARAT** – Thank you Acting Speaker, my three short questions are directed to the Prime Minister:

#### **Shooting of unarmed university students**

(1) Who authorised armed policemen to shoot at unarmed students at Fort Banner, University of Papua New Guinea this morning and why?

**Prime Minister called to step down**

(2) Why can't the Prime Minister step down to allow due process to take place; allow himself to be interviewed by the police because that is what the students want and asking for?

**Mr Patrick Pruaitch** – Who are they?

**Dr ALLAN MARAT** – They are future national leaders!

**Mr Patrick Pruaitch** – Who are they? Who are they?

**Dr ALLAN MARAT** – You shut up!

*(Members interjecting)*

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER** – Order!

**Dr ALLAN MARAT** – I am asking my questions and it is not for you to answer. You should not shout directly at me like that. You shut your mouth.

*(Mr Patrick Pruaitch interjecting)*

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER** – Honourable Member for Rabaul, direct your questions through the Chair.

**Dr ALLAN MARAT** – Mr Acting Speaker, through you –

**Mr William Powi** – Point of Order! Honourable Dr Allan Marat knows the law very well where it states that only Parliament can elect and remove Prime Minister. Why is he sensationalising this issue now? You know the law, you are provoking civil unrest.

**03/06**

*(Opposition Members interjecting)*

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER** – Okay continue!

**Dr ALLAN MARAT** – I just want the Prime Minister to answer my questions.

### **Autonomy to Provinces**

(3) With the decline in the quality of national governance, will the government grant greater autonomy to provinces who have asked for it and who are prepared to go with greater autonomy in this country?

**Mr PETER O'NEILL** – Thankyou Mr Acting Speaker and I thank our good learned Member for Rabaul for his –

**Dr Allan Marat** – Point of Order! I think it is sarcastic for ministers to continue to respond and address people who ask questions with being good Member or learned Member. Can't they just say Member for Rabaul?

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER** – You have asked your questions, please let the Prime Minister finish answering them. Prime Minister, please continue!

**Mr PETER O'NEILL** – Mr Acting Speaker, I am trying to be polite but he's happy to ask questions that are misleading and ambiguous yet he does not want the answers as we are giving it.

Mr Acting Speaker, I am not aware and I have just heard reports of the incident at the university. I am told that there has been some shots fired and tear gas released. Those are unconfirmed reports coming through.

Mr Acting Speaker, I will make sure that the Minister for Police and his team give a detailed report in due course. This is not something that we want. Leaders have got to be responsible. They should not be inciting citizens and students to go out there and misbehave in public. Who is going to take the responsibility? We have not wanted these situation to arise. Yet we know leaders in the Opposition ranks have continuously been engaging with students and –

*(Members interjecting)*

**Mr Garry Juffa** – Point of Order! These accusations themselves are quite vague. They are not genuine and are unfounded. I myself was at the university this morning before coming here.

*(Members interjecting)*

**Mr Peter O’Neill** – That is engaging.

**Mr Garry Juffa** – Today, four students were shot dead and several were injured. That was the information I received. I went there because I have students from my province who are in school. Can the Prime Minister stop making those ambiguous and vague statements that leaders are involved? If you know then name the leaders. This is unfair to all of us that are sitting here. We all have children at the university. This is not a laughing matter because people have died.

**Mr PETER O’NEILL** – I take note of the Governor’s interventions. He himself just admitted that he has been engaging with the students. He has gone over there and addressed the students and that is engaging with the students. We did not say that he was inciting –

**Mr Garry Juffa** – Point of Order! What is wrong with engaging with students?

**Mr PETER O’NEILL** – Nothing wrong with that.

**Mr Garry Juffa** – Exactly, so I was there because I was concerned for my students and I was in plain sight. I did not go in the dark or hide or bring them anywhere to meet with them. So stop misleading us.

**Mr PETER O’NEILL** – Thank you Mr Acting Speaker. I am not going to engage in a debate that is not making any common sense. But Mr Acting Speaker, let me say that this is not an incident that we want for our children. It is not an incident that we want for anybody.

Mr Acting Speaker, points have been made in a very democratic way and they have been answered but some people continued not to accept that. The matter has now become a police matter and we will leave it at that. They will carry out their investigations and in fact in

the coming weeks we will set up a commission of inquiry to establish what is going on at the university.

**04/06**

Secondly, Mr Acting Speaker, stepping down. This question has been on the mindset of the Member of Rabaul and many of his colleagues. Mr Acting Speaker, stepping down for what? He knows very well as a lawyer –

**Dr Allan Marat** – Point of Order! Stepping down is to allow the Police to investigate. Allegations have been made of serious crimes being committed. That is just the allegation so can you let the Police to move in and intervene that is not convicting somebody.

*(Members Interjecting)*

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER** – Okay, you have made your point, Mr Prime Minister continue.

**Mr PETER O'NEILL** – Mr Acting Speaker, I have said all along that I have made myself available for any interview.

Any statement from my staff or myself on the conduct of our office in regards to the allegations that are before us, there has never been a question about that.

The question is about the warrant! Why we had to run to go and get the warrant in the first place? As a lawyer you should know that. You know that everyone in this country is innocent until proven guilty. Learn your Law, where did you get your PhD?

*(Uproar in the House)*

**Dr Allan Marat** – A conviction will come and you will be proven guilty, a person will be proven guilty after the trial.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER** – The point of order is out of order.

**Dr Allan Marat** – No, it's not!

**Mr PETER O'NEILL** – Mr Acting Speaker, here are two basic facts for the good Member and the interest of the public.

(1) Paul Paraka Lawyers, one of your colleagues in the legal profession was never engaged by this Government. Never! Not even one case or one contract by this Government. That is fact number one.

(2) He has been paid millions and millions of kina for many years before this Government came into power. That is fact number two.

Mr Acting Speaker, all those millions of kina were they illegal? Nobody has established that there was a fraud.

In fact, when you were the Attorney General he was still getting paid, Mr Acting Speaker.

*(Uproar in the House)*

**Dr Allan Marat** – Point of Order! He is accusing me of something I never did.

Mr Acting Speaker, during my ten years as Attorney-General I never briefed out Paul Paraka Lawyer's on any case and God is my witness.

*(Uproar in the House)*

**Dr Allan Marat** – Stop making false accusations, thank you.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER** – You have made your point.

**Mr PETER O'NEILL** – I know that the Member for Rabaul understands the English language quite well. I did not say that it got briefed out under him, I am saying that he still got paid during those years as well, Mr Acting Speaker.

So, Mr Acting Speaker, we will allow the due process to take its course.

*(Members interjecting)*

**Mr PETER O'NEILL** – We know that warrants can be challenged in Court, others have been challenged in Court.

*(Uproar in the House)*

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER** – Order!

**Mr PETER O’NEILL** – Mr Acting Speaker, let the due process take its course and I know that my colleagues on the other side are very interested in pursuing this case and we will see them in Court as well.

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

**05/06**

**Mr Kerenga Kua** – Point of Order! We are responsible people, as elected leaders, we have a duty to uphold the rule of law. The simple thing we are asking for is to allow the process to go through. They are accusing me of all these things even when he sacked me he set the record in setting up the only commission of enquiry ever in the history of this country to expose me. What did he find? Nothing. That’s the reason why he hasn’t even tabled the report.

The point is this, when the warrant of arrest was issued against me when I was never the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, because if I was, I would have resigned at the time. That’s the point and that’s the standard he has to set. Stop evading it.

*(Government Members interjecting)*

**Mr PETER O’NEILL** – Thank you Mr Acting Speaker, as a citizen of this country, the former Attorney-General has exercised his right to challenge that warrant. I am doing the same. What is the difference?

But Mr Acting Speaker, I am not going to allow doctored documents to try and get the office of the Prime Minister down. That is a fact so take it from me. You will see me for a long long time.

**Mr Kerenge Kua-** Point of Order! – He cannot be judged on that question. He has to allow the process to take place.

**Mr PETER O’NEILL** – Thank you Mr Acting Speaker, on the third question about giving autonomy to provinces, yes this government is already doing that with Bougainville. We are now in the process of doing that with New Ireland. We have given directions to our

public servants to allow for the autonomous powers to be transferred to the provinces and we will roll it out as we go along, Mr Acting Speaker.

This is a new thing for the country and it must be done in an orderly manner so that we don't create confusion in running government in the country.

### **Forestry Export Earnings Parked Overseas**

**Mr POWES PARKOP** – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker for giving me the chance again in asking the question to the Prime Minister. Just to preface; as we all know our country is facing hard economic times with the price of commodities falling everywhere so it gives a big challenge. One of the biggest challenge is about having adequate foreign exchange. That is the challenge we all face that is affecting all private sectors, both big and small.

Mr Acting Speaker, there might be some ways we got to find some bit of relief. But one of the ways I think we can provide relief is to bring all of these accounts all these big mining, oil and gas companies are operating overseas. We can provide relief to the economy by bringing in a lot of foreign exchange.

My specific question to the Prime Minister is this; is the Prime Minister aware that last year 2015, from the forestry sector, total earning from forestry amounted to about K1.1 billion?

Secondly, is he aware that of the K1.1 billion, only 30 per cent have been brought back on-shore by the logging companies just to keep them surviving, to pay the workers, pay for fuel, pay for other operational cost? Seventy per cent of that money is still off-shore?

Thirdly, is he aware that the Minister under *Section 118 of Forestry Act 1991* has powers to order these companies to bring all the accounts in?

It can still be their money, no problem, they earned it. But, you know they sold our logs and we have the right to bring that money here and they can keep it in their account. But once that money comes into the account, we'll be flushed with cash again. The banks will be able to give a lot of loans, free with low interest rate.

I believe if we have a concern that, that might generate inflation, I'm sure the Minister for Finance, Minister for Treasury and the Governor of the Central bank can control inflation. But the point is this; I'm just pointing out the forestry sector.

**06/06**

Imagine the gas, oil and mining sector, all the money they are keeping offshore I am sure it adds up to billions. Why are they keeping it there? Is there policy or a decision by the Government or is there an agreement or clause to keep the money offshore? And can the Prime

Minister and the Government through the Minister of Finance and Treasury give some directions or order or allow the Minister for Forest to, with one sweep, get all these monies back on shore or at least the majority of it?

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

**Mr PETER O'NEILL** – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker, and I thank the Governor for NCD for his question on the Forestry Sector and the amounts of money that is supposed to be received from the logging exports that we do in the country.

Mr Acting Speaker, just like Forestry and any other big projects in the country, we have made agreements with the developers where in the past 40 years our Government has allowed them to keep money overseas and bring money into the country on a regular basis to help them meet their operational requirements. This has created a situation where we think that we are running out of foreign currency, when exporters are keeping money overseas and are not bringing it in.

Mr Acting Speaker, the Central Bank over the past few months has been directly talking to each of the exporters and forcing them to bring the money back where we don't have agreements. Where we have government agreements in place like the mining and petroleum companies that is difficult because those agreements have been sanctioned by this Parliament on some occasions and as a result they are allowed to keep money overseas.

We need to change the way we are doing business. Our officials have been directed to go and approach each of the relevant industries. The National Forest Board is now trying to look for a way to encourage the exporters or direct the exporters using the *Forestry Act* to bring in the money. The Minister has the power to do that and the process is underway.

Mr Acting Speaker, we are also trying to control the industry by invoking *Section 25* where the Government can create a marketing agency so we will take care of the logs. Whoever cuts the timber does not matter, the Government can take charge of it because sometimes prices are issues, and transfer pricing is a big issue in the country where Papua New Guineans are missing out on a lot of revenue from this industry. It's not only Forestry but it's across the board, Fisheries and everywhere else.

So our officials are working on it and we will be making a detailed statement on this because it is shifting over a long established policy particularly the mining and petroleum sector where they want to take control of the revenues. We have them – most of the time to bring the money into the country.

On foreign exchange, I want to inform the Governor and the honourable House that you will see the statement of the Managing Director of BSP today. You will see that the Government has been talking to the major exporters to build funds in there, as a result more and more funds are coming in. At the same time global commodity prices are increasing and more foreign exchange are coming in and you will see from this statement that all the other small outstanding bills have been paid except for major users of foreign currency like Digicel, Trukai and all these companies whose demands are quite high. So for those few companies, their demands are still outstanding but the rest of the demands are being met on a regular basis and it is improving.

Mr Acting Speaker, again I agree with the Governor that we need to find a way to keep more foreign currency in the country.

Many of times, I know that the Members have been told about this Dutch Disease, where too much money is coming into the country that creates issue for the economy but I think the Central Bank and the commercial banks have been allowed to open foreign currency accounts in the country. So, if they are going to bring US dollars in, they can keep it in US dollars in Papua New Guinea and when we know we can take our share for the country out of those funds immediately other than waiting for them to decide for us.

Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

**Mr SAM BASIL** – My questions are directed to the Minister for Defence and I would like all Members of Parliament to take note of these important issues.

**07/06**

### **Unauthorised Issuance of Defence Force Weapons**

My first question is in regards to the issuing of military weapons.

(1) Can the Minister confirm or deny that on 18 May, 2016 the Commander of the PNG Defence Force tasked the quartermasters or store master to open up the armoury without any instructions to obtain four carbine M-16s, one pistol and first line ammunitions?

Those weapons were given to unattached officers of the PNG Defence Force from the Highlands Region in order to escort the Prime Minister in light of imminent threat of the police fraud squad arrest.

**Mr Peter O’Neill** – Point of Order! I am not aware of the question that he is asking but, Mr Acting Speaker, no Defence Force personnel has ever given me protection.

I have regular police protection that is accorded to every official and the question about the Prime Minister is misleading, Mr Acting Speaker.

Thank you.

**Mr SAM BASIL** – Thank you.

This verbal instruction was said to be issued by the PNG Defence Force Commander, Brigadier Gilbert Toropo upon the request of the Prime Minister, Mr Peter O’Neill.

### **Defence Force Commander Appointed Despite Allegations**

(2) Can the Prime Minister confirm or deny that before the appointment of the current PNG Defence Force Brigadier General, he was alleged to have misappropriated a sum of K1.5 million from the PNG Defence Force Commercial Support Programme?

The allegation was well known to the Cabinet, including the Defence Minister with pending police investigations regarding this issue but the Prime Minister nepotically influenced the Cabinet to carry on with the appointment.

### **Nepotism in Defence Force Recruitment**

Issue No.3, nepotism in the PNG Defence Force

**Mr James Marape** – Point of Order! I cannot point where exactly in the *Standing Orders* but I will ask the Clerk to assist you, Mr Acting Speaker, on the fact that inferences are made firstly to people outside of Parliament who are not here to defend themselves.

*(Opposition Members interjecting)*

**Mr James Marape** – Secondly, Mr Acting Speaker, again, the very good learned Deputy Opposition Leader is quoting that the Prime Minister gave the instruction, and the Prime Minister has already stated that he did not give those instructions.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER** – Minister, your point of order is in order.

Honourable Deputy Leader for Opposition, do not make inferences outside of this Parliament.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you may continue.

**Mr SAM BASIL** – Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

As we all know, the appointment of the PNG Defence Commander is architecturally clear due to the fact that the Commander and the Prime Minister are both from the electorate of Ialibu-Pangia, Southern Highlands.

The PNG Defence Commander has appointed Mr Stanley Benny who is from the same village as Mr Peter O’Neill to the post of the director of postings and promotions –

**Mr William Powi** – Point of Order! Deputy Opposition Leader, the Brigadier General does not come from Ialibu-Pangia, he comes from Imbonggu from a village called Tunapiambe.

*(Government Members interjecting)*

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER** – Ask your question, Deputy Opposition Leader.

**Mr SAM BASIL** – Okay, he has now strategically posted all cronies from the Highlands Region to the key positions of the PNG Defence Force. For instance, the two Colonels from New Ireland –

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER** – Ask your question.

**Mr SAM BASIL** – Okay, thank you, I will go straight to my questions. I’m coming to it, Mr Acting Speaker.

Okay, in the context of recruiting soldiers from the Ialibu-Pangia electorate, Mr Acting Speaker, I have with me records of Ialibu-Pangia soldiers who were recruited, who have breached some of the laws governing the process of recruitment.

Mr Acting Speaker, I also have with me documents also bearing the signature of the Commander asking the recruitment officer to bypass minor issues such as marital status and forging certificates to enter.

Mr Acting Speaker, since recruitment has started from year 2000, about 70 percent of recruitment are from the Ialibu-Pangia electorate.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER** – Ask your question.

**Mr SAM BASIL** – About 30 per cent is from Jiwaka and from Hela provinces.

Mr Acting Speaker, my questions are –

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER** – Ask your question.

**Mr SAM BASIL** – My questions are:

(4) Why are the recruitment team enlisting too many Southern Highlanders, especially from Ialibu-Pangia, Hela and Jiwaka than the other 18 provinces of Papua New Guinea?

**08/06**

*(Members interjecting)*

**Mr Powes Parkop** – Point of Order! Mr Acting Speaker, with due respect to the Deputy Opposition Leader these allegations are against the Defence Force Commander and he is subject to the *Leadership Code* and if he could forward all these allegations which are serious in nature to the Ombudsman Commission for investigation. I personally know the Commander because I represented the Defence Force as the lawyer in some cases and I know he is a qualified officer. But if there are serious allegations against him I don't think this is the forum to raise them.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER** – Leader continue asking your questions.

**Mr SAM BASIL** – (5) Can the Defence Minister immediately intervene and remove the one-sided recruitment of soldiers so that we can accommodate the other 18 provinces of this country's young men and women to become soldiers in the Defence Force?

(6) Why is the PNG Defence Force Commander intending to place major benefits for his own tribesman of Ialibu-Pangia, to be the Commanding Officer of Taurama Barracks prior to the 2017 National General Elections?

It is imperative that the recruitment of new soldiers must equally represent the 22 provinces of Papua New Guinea to balance the equation. Otherwise this country will be heading towards anarchy or small grouping of powerful people that rule. Other officers within the PNG Defence Force including potential soldiers from other three regions of Papua New Guinea, Islands and the Momase regions are misplaced, disadvantaged and are affected due to the current nepotism in command.

(7) Is the Minister aware of that?

(8) Can the Minister explain as to what procedures does the PNG Defence Force hierarchy employ when a Government Minister or a Prime Minister personally calls up to have excess to military officers and assets including ammunition for self-protection?

**Dr FABIAN POK** – Mr Acting Speaker, in regards to the Deputy Opposition Leaders first question, I have been the Minister for Defence over four years now and there has never been a time where the military has provided escort for the Prime Minister. This information is totally wrong and misleading to this Parliament.

There are procedures in place regarding the country's military armoury but to say that the intended purpose to escort the Prime Minister is absurd. Where ever your information came from is totally incorrect and wrong. When did a man in military uniform run after the Prime Minister in this country?

**Mr Sam Basil** – In Chuave!

**Mr Wera Mori** – Point of Order! Mr Acting Speaker, the Defence Force Soldiers in Chuave are not there under the Prime Minister's invitation or the Defence Force Commander's, they are on the ground for the Highlands Highway road works exercise. They were in Chuave basically to provide a parade.

It just so happened that the soldiers where there in Chuave and the Prime Minister came to visit Chuave on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER** – Minister continue with your response.

**Dr FABIAN POK** – In regards to the second question, Brigadier General Gilbert Toropo was appointed two and half years ago. The learned Deputy Opposition Leader should have raised these issues there and then. How come he is raising these issues after two years in this Parliament?

There must be a motive behind all of these. Just seven months away from the National General Elections and he wants to disrepute the Prime Minister.

Mr Acting Speaker, can you see what he is doing?

**09/06**

He is trying to do anything to destroy the Prime Minister. That is what you do all the time but here is no evidence.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER** – Minister, you must answer the question with care.

**Dr FABIAN POK** –You are simply trying to destroy the credibility of the Prime Minister. That is not correct. Your information is misleading. This person was appointed two and a half years ago as Commander of the PNGDF. Why wait till now?

**Mr Sam Basil** – Point of Order! Mr Acting Speaker, it is in relation to the misuse of K1.5 million and it is under police investigation. It is about the credibility of the person and the quality of the person that is being appointed and that is what we are talking about.

**Dr FABIAN POK** - Why didn't you bring forth this issue during his appointment? If this is a police matter then let the police handle it. Why should you and I handle it on the Floor of Parliament? You should have done it two and a half years ago.

**Mr Mark Maipakai** – Point of Order! It is a simple question and you are not answering his question. This is an issue of misapplication. I was part of the Cabinet but for Cabinet confidentiality, I cannot say what was in that documentation.

He is simply asking you if there was a criminal issue before him or abuse of K1.5 million. You should just answer the question.

**Dr FABIAN POK** – I have answered it in full. I told you that this may have happened when the Brigadier-General was not a Commander of the Defence Force. So this happened long time back. Why did you raise the issue now, about two and a half years later?

This is a police matter so why should we handle it on the Floor of Parliament. If he is arrested, so be it. If he is not arrested so be it because it happened three years ago. Why didn't you bring it up when you were sitting right there?

*(Laughter in the Chamber)*

**Dr FABIAN POK** – Gilbert Toropo is a well learned Papua New Guinean. He is one of the few Papua New Guineans trained as a ranger and is fit to become the Commander of Papua New Guinea Defence Force. He is a Papua New Guinean and I do not care where he comes from. So long as the NEC has seen fit to appoint him Commander of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force.

When Sir Michael was the Prime Minister, he appointed a Brigadier-General from Sepik to be his Commander, because that was the right man at the right time. So now, Gilbert Toropo is the right man at the right time.

Mr Acting Speaker, this person is not from Ialibu-Pangia. You got it all wrong that is why you are always wrong.

**Mr Sam Basil** – Just answer the question.

**Dr FABIAN POK** – It amazes me for a learned person, Deputy Leader of the Opposition to make a statement that 70 percent of the recruit are from Southern Highlands and 30 percent are from Jiwaka.

I have not put one in there yet. You cannot put people there because they must meet the minimum standard to become a member of the Defence Force.

I am amazed but I will invite you to the graduation at the end of this year to see for yourself. Then you will know that you are absolutely and totally wrong. If it was outside of the Parliament House, I will sue you.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER** – I remind you again, please address the Chair.

**Mr Kerenga Kua** – Point of Order! I think it is time we need proper accurate answer? Can the Minister delay part of the answer to tomorrow's sitting and bring the break-up of the last recruit and give us the break up, province by province so we will know whether or not he is telling the truth?

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*(Members interjecting)*

**Dr FABIAN POK** – That is why your point of order is out of order.

*(Members laughing)*

**Dr FABIAN POK** – With due respect to the Chair, why don't both of them go down to Murray Barracks and read the recruiting procedures and see how it is done. Can I invite both of them to come down so that they can see for themselves how the Jiwakas, Southern Highlanders and Helas are lining up to go to Goldie?

*(Members laughing)*

**Dr FABIAN POK** – It is absurd to make such accusations in Parliament.

*(Members interjecting)*

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER** – Order! Minister, answer the question.

**Dr FABIAN POK** – You a leader and whatever you say must contain some element of truth. Why are you always saying things because that is just what you think?

Furthermore, the Defence Force Commander is not here to defend himself so if he has any allegation, the Commander like any other appointed leader is under the Leadership Code. Why don't you send your information to the Ombudsman Commission so that he can be answerable to it rather than coming here and trying to destroy the integrity of the Prime Minister and myself?

**Mr Sam Basil** – You haven't appointed an Ombudsman Commissioner yet.

**Dr FABIAN POK** – The Office of the Acting Chief Ombudsman Commissioner is there so why don't you send it there for them to deal with it.

Lastly, I want to say that please as leaders, let's ask questions that are very sensible and fair. These are questions aimed to destroy people's reputations.

**Mr HAVILA KAVO** – Thank you Mr Acting Speaker for recognising the people of Gulf Province.

I direct my series of questions to the Minister for Transport and I want the ministers for National Planning and Works respectively to take note.

Just in brief, in 2012, some vessels were bought through two separate programs, the Coastal Vessel Program and other under the National Transport Sectoral Fund and facilitated

by the Department of Transport and Department of National Planning & Monitoring respectively.

Some Members of Parliament in the Maritime Provinces bought vessels under undisclosed monies amounting to well over millions of kina with the pretext of serving their coastal population.

In Gulf Province, five ships which were bought for Kikori coastal area under the same program are sitting idle here in the wharf since they were bought five years ago. They were purchased purposely to serve the people of Gulf. They are; *MV Kikori Cargo Burge*, *MV Baimuru Cargo Burge*, *MV Davaria Aifu River Ambulance*, *Meapi Fishing Boat* and *MV Poirapi Fishing Boat*.

From records, the Gulf Provincial Executive Council does not have any knowledge whatsoever of the purchase and ownership of these vessels.

My questions are:

(1) Can the Minister for Transport direct each departmental secretary concerned to establish the status report of these vessels for Kikori Electorate currently docked in Port Moresby wharf since 2012?

**Mr Mark Maipakai** – Point of Order! There are only four ships docked at the harbour and their purchase were never facilitated by my office. It went through the national tender process from which I have a receipt here. The evidence of the ships are there so I do not want the Governor to mislead Parliament. Currently, one is being serviced and the others are in the public places and there is nothing to hide.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER** – You have made your point?

**11/06**

#### **Status Report of Gulf Vessels**

**Mr HAVILLA KAVO** – Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker, can the Minister for Transport direct his department to establish a status report of these vessels and barges for the Kikori Electorate currently docked here in Port Moresby at Caution Bay?

Since their purchase back in 2012, they have not been in operations. A similar kind of incident happened to the Member for Manus and I see no reason why the Member for Kikori could be excused from these kind of implications.

Mr Speaker, can the Minister for Transport table in Parliament the status report into the registrations, licence, acquisitions, procurements and most importantly, the ownership of these boats?

### **Jetties for Gulf Province**

Mr Speaker, Gulf Province is the only province that does not have jetties. Is there any programme that the department has to build three jetties in Kikori, Baimuru, Ihu and Kerema? This is the only maritime province that does not have any wharf or jetty.

Because of the major LNG project that is coming up, it is very important that the government immediately put money into developing jetties in Gulf Province.

I understand that you are acquiring more than eight boats this year. Can two of those boats be given to the Gulf Provincial Government?

**Mr NIXON DUBAN** – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

I'd like to thank the Governor of Gulf for the series of questions that are related to acquisitions of some coastal vessels purport for the people of Gulf, in this case probably Kikori.

Mr Deputy Speaker, let me firstly say that these issues are quite sensitive and I think it is also likely to implicate another Member of Parliament. If there is an issue, I want to assure the honourable Governor that if those vessels were purchased under the Coastal Vessel Programme and they are not parked or used within the required jurisdiction and if it is an issue then we will make those information available to the appropriate authorities.

Mr Deputy Speaker, if these are issues relating to operational matters, we will also disclose the same and even if they relate to abuse of public funds and there are other implications then they will be referred to the police force.

I know that Caution Bay is not in Gulf and if they are parked there for maintenance or operations then those are issues that the investigation will expose.

The other questions relating to the registration, licensing and ownership of those vessels, I can assure the good Governor that those information will be made available. He will be given a full brief and I'll ensure that the department responsible for that matter makes available these information.

In relation to the jetties, I think the National Fisheries Authority is currently in charge of that particular programme as opposed to the Transport Department which used to administer that programme.

**12/06**

The request by the good Governor for those jetties to be built in Gulf Province can be relayed to the Minister for Fisheries and if there are other issues in relation to the coastal vessels, I think the Minister for Planning is responsible for that. But I want to assure the Governor that the current state of those vessels will be examined and a report will be made available for him.

### **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.

### **SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT**

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

That due to many prevalent issues in the city and country today, the Parliament at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday 2 August 2016 at 2.00 p.m..

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

**Mr Sam Basil** – Point of Order!

*(Opposition Members interjecting)*

Motion – That the Parliament do now adjourn – agreed to.

The Parliament adjourned at 11.55 p.m..