

FIFTH DAY

Tuesday 16 August 2016

DRAFT HANSARD

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**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
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The Draft Hansard is uncorrected. It is also privileged. Members have one week from the date of issue of Draft Hansard in which to make corrections to their speeches. Until the expiration of this one week period, Draft Hansard must not be quoted as final and accurate report of the debates of the National Parliament.

Corrections maybe marked on a photocopy of the Daily Draft Hansard and lodged at the Office of the Principal Parliamentary Reporter, A123 [next to the Security Control Room].

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

Amendments cannot be accepted over the phone.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LEE SIROTE', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

LEE SIROTE
Acting Principal Parliamentary Reporter

FIFTH DAY

Tuesday 16 August 2016

The Speaker (**Mr Theo Zurenuoc**) took the Chair at 10 a.m..

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

Sitting suspended.

Mr Speaker again took the Chair at 10.55 a.m., and invited the Governor for West New Britain, **Honourable Sasindra Muthuvel** to say Prayers:

‘Dear God please bless us all with your love. Please help us and guide us now so we all can remember your lordship. Give you knowledge and wisdom to all the members of Parliament to deal with the business of this beautiful country. Do not make us proud of wealth, people relations and friends. All these are snatched by time in the blink of an eye. Giving up this illusionary wealth. God are you are the supreme and you have no beginning and no end. You are the father of every living creature in this world. Amen.’

QUESTIONS

Outstanding Bills on Notice Paper

Ms LOUJAYA KOUZA – I wish to direct my question to the Auditor-General but since he is not here, I will redirect it to the Prime Minister. My question is in relation to certain bills that this Parliament needs to know about. Firstly, the Human Rights Bill 2013, the National Narcotics Bill 2013, the Parole Amendment Bill 2014 and the Urbanisation Amendment Bill 2013.

Secondly, will the bill on the Notice Paper No. 153 belonging to Sir Julius Chan pertaining to the amendment of the *Mining Act 1992* be entertained at all in this sitting?

Mr PETER O’NEILL – I thank the Member for Lae for her questions. If she could put her questions in writing, I will get the Attorney-General to reply to her specifically on the status of various bills that she has highlighted.

Mr Speaker, on the issue about the *Mining Act* as I said last week, the Government has already got a paper before Cabinet as we speak today after a very lengthy consultation process with all the stakeholders in this very important industry and the Government will address both notices that have been put forward by Sir Julius Chan and the proposal put to Government by the Mining Department and the stakeholders on the way forward for this industry.

Mr Speaker, I know there has been a lot of debates going on but the main thing is that there are many stakeholders in the process and one of them is the landowners and also the provincial governments. Their interest must be clearly defined because they want more benefits and participation in the mining projects throughout the country. Sir Julius Chan's bill alludes to that as well but as I said, the consultation has been going on for over six years and it has now being concluded, and we will bring it to the Floor of Parliament very soon.

Mr GARRY JUFFA – I wish to direct my questions to the Minister for Agriculture and Livestock but since he is not here, I will redirect them to the Prime Minister.

The questions are in relation to the rumours that have been put out in the public that a foreign company has been granted a monopoly for 80 per cent of the domestic rice market in the country.

02/05

So, my questions are related to that. Northern Province and a number of other provinces have been embarking on that project to grow rice and considering going into the commercial aspects of it so we want to know how this will affect us, if indeed, that rumour is true.

My questions are;

1) Can the Minister confirm if the purported agreement for rice monopoly which will grant 80 per cent of the domestic rice market has been signed or not? If indeed that is the case then where will the company be obtaining its rice from and what guarantee is there that that rice will be of the quality that will meet our standards that our consumer's safety is protected?

2) Where does that leave our local farmers and Papua New Guineans who may wish to venture into the rice industry? We are already in partnership with Trukai, Trukai has expanded K40 million in Northern Province, Central Province and in West New Britain I believe, correct me if I am wrong, in that effort.

There is also information from reliable sources that the cost of rice will increase by 40 per cent, if this monopoly is granted to this foreign company.

Finally, the person at the head of this company is reported to be Djoko Tjandra who is wanted in Indonesia for fraud related banking offences and so forth as listed by Interpol.

3) What guarantee do we have that we maybe unwittingly facilitating the proceeds of crime and has the Government granted any funding into this joint venture and if so, how much exactly?

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thank you, Mr Speaker and I thank the Governor for Northern for his questions especially in relation to the rice industry, of course our desire to grow rice in our country.

Mr Speaker, many of the executives of the rice companies in the country have sought meetings with me and of course many other Ministers and Members of this Parliament expressing concern about the issue of the Quota System that is going to be introduced as a result of the new government's policy on trying to grow rice in the country.

Mr Speaker, I have always stated very clearly that it must be a competitive process, it is not trying to create monopoly for any company or person and our desire is to grow rice and be self-sufficient and have food security for our country.

Mr Speaker, Trukai is the biggest rice importer in PNG and of course they import most of their rice from Australia but they do not produce enough rice to support PNG's market. That is why they import from Asia to meet this shortfall, which is then repacked and sold in Papua New Guinea.

Mr Speaker, I am also aware that Trukai has been involved in experimental rice growing in the country but I put it specifically to them that we have had enough of experimenting, we want them to grow rice in Papua New Guinea.

Mr Garry Juffa – Point of Order! Thank you, Mr Speaker, I just want to clarify for the Prime Minister and Members here that we sold about 20 000 tonnes, this year to Trukai.

As far as we are concerned it is not experimental because we are actually farming and selling our rice now, that is why I am just concerned on behalf of my farmers where this situation leads us, so if I may just correct that.

Thank you.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thank you, Mr Speaker, it is good to hear that Northern is producing rice but 20, 000 tonnes is a long way from the total capacity of rice that is consumed every year in the country.

03/05

What we want to do is to have a large scale commercially viable rice growing in various parts throughout the country that is able to meet our demand.

As the Minister for Agriculture stated earlier, many countries who are producing rice are producing enough for themselves, the small surplus production left, is the one that is being bought throughout the country and thus that shortage in the supply will continue over many years. Therefore, Mr Speaker, we don't have much choice but we must grow rice amongst ourselves throughout the country.

Mr Speaker, the quota system is being managed by the Department of Agriculture. I have no knowledge that 80 per cent of the quota system is being awarded. As far as I am concerned, and have stated very clearly on many occasions, it must be competitive. And the quota system is only based on how much rice you grow in the country. If you do not grow rice, I do not expect you to get a quota system.

Mr Garry Juffa – Point of Order! Mr Speaker, I have documentation from which I will make available to the Prime Minister from the Department of Agriculture, where they have very specifically stated that it will be 80 per cent till the year 2030, so I will make those documents available. That is quite significant, yes we do want to grow our own rice, but we cannot give a quota system like this which will last up until 2030. That is very detrimental to our people and those who wish to grow their own rice and to those who want to be involved in this business as well, thank you.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thank you, Mr Speaker, I am not privy to the document that the Governor is talking about, but Mr Speaker, these particular quotas that are being proposed by the Department of Agriculture has not reached Cabinet yet.

The Cabinet has not made a firm decision on the arrangement of the quota system but let me state it very clearly again so there that is no doubt whatsoever.

If you do not grow one hectare of rice, you will not grow a quota system, very simple. If you do not invest money into the rice industry in the country, you do not get a quota, you must invest in the industry before you get a quota. It must be a level and fair playing field.

We are not trying to create a situation whereby we create a monopoly, we want to have a competitive rice industry. Rice itself is too important for Papua New Guineans. We consume rice every day, as a result, we do not want to see this staple diet being managed and controlled by one or two players in the market.

Mr Speaker, the second issue that the Governor talked about was the price increase up to 40 per cent. Let me assure this Parliament that the price of rice, is a price controlled and the price controller will set the prices and I don't expect that it will go up to 40 per cent. Rice will continue to be imported by the various rice importers today and we will continue to manage them closely. It is a price controlled item and there is not much expectation that the price will increase to 40 per cent as being suggested.

Mr Speaker, on the issue of funding, no, the Government has got an option to either to take up some equity in the rice project, especially the one that will take place in Central Province, Kairuku-Hiri. That is an option the Government can exercise but to date there is not one single fund being allocated to this project, that I can assure the honourable Governor and this honourable House.

Mr GISUWAT SINIWAN – Thank you, Mr Speaker, for recognising the people of Nawae. Before I ask my two very important questions to the Minister for Treasury, I would like to take time this morning to congratulate the new Minister for Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology, who took the Member for Kabwum and myself to his electorate of Talasea where there was a big celebration and acknowledgment from his people from Friday until yesterday. Therefore On behalf of my colleague and I, thank the people of Talasea and West New Britain for their reception towards us and their newly appointed Minister.

04/05

My questions are directed to the Minister for Treasury.

My first question I believe was also asked on this Floor of Parliament last year by the Honourable Governor of New Ireland.

As we all know, most commercial banks in the country are charging unnecessary fees. For instance, K7 for deposit and 75 toea for ATM withdrawals. If you were to calculate all these fees they would amount to a large sums of money. Such unnecessary fees include, monthly cheque clearing fees, account maintaining fees, withdrawing fees, minimum balance fees, ATM withdrawal fees and et cetera. This is just a way to make excessive profits from the people. This is definitely hurting small businessmen and the general public at large, including the politicians.

(1) Why are the commercial banks charging unnecessary fees?

(2) Can the government through the Ministry re-introduce small units like 1 toea and two toea back into the system?

Mr Speaker, I am saying this because, if you go to the shops for example; when you buy an item for 75 toea your change would be 70 toea or 75 toea. Or, if your change is 99 toea then 90 toea would be given to you not K1.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr PATRICK PRUAITCH – Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I would like to thank the Member for Nawae for his two questions in relation to the fees charged by the commercial banks and the re-introduction of smaller denominations into the market.

Mr Speaker, as you know, all commercial banks are private business entities and they exist to make profit in the end. Due to the frequency of transactions in the market place they need to also recover to ensure that they remain above insofar as making money.

Mr Speaker, nevertheless, I will take the question on board and I am making an undertaking to ask the Central Bank to have a look at whether the fees currently introduced by commercial banks are unnecessary. Therefore, I will make the undertaking and reply to the Member.

In terms of the re-introductions of smaller denominations like 1 toea and 2 toea.

Mr Speaker, we have withdrawn the smaller denominations sometimes back because the cost of producing these smaller denominations is quite high. Also, we found that many people did not use and circulate the smaller denominations.

Instead, people tend to stockpile it and even in the banks their stocks accumulate. Therefore, we believed that we do not need to introduce these smaller denominations and

withdraw them. This is because the public is not using them and their production cost is quite high.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Police Conduct Disappointing

Mr WERA MORI – Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity.

Mr Speaker, I would like to ask these questions to the Honourable Prime Minister. Yesterday on the front page of the *National* there was a report that, a businessman funding a group of policemen raided and assaulted, and in actual fact one young man was killed at Erima Settlement.

Mr Speaker, for so often, it has become apparent that the conduct of our policemen has created a situation where we have made our own citizens to become enemies of the State.

Mr Speaker, my questions are these:

(1) Why is it that policemen are allowed to conduct themselves in such, where they continue to harass and attack our own citizens?

05/05

(2) When can we have these unruly policemen dealt with so that at least it can serve as a deterrent to other members of the police force that they do not attack our citizens?

(3) Can the police hierarchy investigate this matter thoroughly so that the policemen or women whoever is responsible for taking the life of an innocent Papua New Guinean be brought to justice?

I would like to remind us here Mr Speaker, we Members of Parliament are elected to stand up and we must be of relevance to this sort of people no matter where they are living whether in settlement or not, they are noble citizens of this country.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – I thank the good Member for Chuave for this very important question.

Mr Speaker, it was unfortunate that the incident took place few days ago where a young man lost his life. The young man is from my electorate and we are very saddened by this loss.

I want to assure the honourable Member that the investigation is now conducted by the internal affairs of police force. The Commissioner has advised me that, that is already underway.

The Metropolitan Superintendent is also conducting his own investigation because I understand that police concerned are from the NCDC unit.

Mr Speaker, apparently, the policemen are not using reasonable means to address the challenges that are taking place in the community. They jump into situations where they are trigger happy when they as policemen are supposed to mediate and try to resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner.

It is becoming very apparent that there are few individuals within the police force. Not everyone Mr Speaker, because there are some very good officers in the country who are continuously working tirelessly without benefits to themselves while trying to maintain peace and good order in our communities throughout the country. We give credit to those committed officers.

Like I mentioned earlier there are some individuals within the police force who are trigger happy and are continuously spoiling the good name of the police force. We need to isolate this people and ensure that we bring back confidence into our police force as quickly as possible.

I want to assure the good Member that we will get to the bottom of this. I will get the Minister for Police to make a statement on what his Department and the Commissioner are doing to address some of this challenges as we move forward.

Mr Speaker, I understand that in this particular instant, there was a developer who was trying to take possession of the land. We welcome the development of large parcels of land for the benefit of our citizens but as well as that they must respect that they have a community obligation.

There are people already living in those land and if it is a large block of land I am sure they can work out an arrangement with the settlers so that the settlers are also treated well and properly as they truly deserve.

Mr Speaker, some of them have been living on this land for over many decades and you do not expect them to pack up one morning and disappear. Where are they going to go?

Mr Speaker, our people need more respect and the developers have an obligation to resettle them properly if they want to move them out and compensate them well. Compensate them for the loss of permanent houses that were built on this land. I urge the lands department and of course NCDC itself must take full responsibility on resettlement of our settlers properly before any developer moves in to develop the land that is in question.

06/05

Supplementary Question

Empowering the People with Landownership

Mr JOE KOMUN KOIM – I would like to raise my supplementary question in support of what our brother, Member for Chuave has raised. It is very important that the Prime Minister has given us an indication of what's going on in our settlements.

My supplementary question is; as alluded to by the Prime Minister, most of these people who have been settling in our cities lately have been the backbones of the growth we are seeing today.

They've committed their lives over so many years and most of them have been living in that land for so many years and many of the children that grew out of those communities have no knowledge of their traditional land back at home and are considered to be citizens of that electorate.

So, my supplementary is that as a government, can we not look at these people's plea by allocating them whatever piece of land that they are living on for their own so that they can be empowered in a way we are empowering our own people? When we give them that land, depending on the length of time they have resided there we are at the same time empowering our own people and they can go to the bank and get bank loans to start up their families.

We are growing our own people that way. That's another way we can grow our people.

Mr SPEAKER – What's your question?

Mr JOE KOMUN KOIM – My supplementary question is as a government can we have some policies on how we can empower our people by giving them the land they are residing on?

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thank you, Mr Speaker and I thank the good Member for Anglimp-South Waghi for his supplementary question.

Mr Speaker, yes, we have a trial that is going on at the moment. We are trying to have a planned settlement programme for our settlers.

We are now working closely with the Member for Moresby Northeast, particularly at Eight Mile where we have recently announced to our people there that we will bring in

surveyors to divide all the land that has been settled on so that our people have proper titles to the area in which they have settled.

That programme is going on and hopefully, with the success of that we can expand this programme nationwide.

Mr Speaker, we must respect that these are our people. They need to be settled properly. And, of course, with settlements like that services like power and water and electricity must continue to be supplied to them in an orderly manner.

Mr Speaker, one other programme that is being piloted with NCDC up at Six Mile, and this is also with the traditional landowners, not with State where traditional land is being registered properly, titled properly, landowner is receiving land rates and we are encouraging settlers to go and build their houses on those land where they can be able to live in an harmonious community with landowners from the tribes getting some income from their land.

So, Mr Speaker, we are piloting some of these which when they are successful we will expand them right across the country.

Pogera-Tari Road Project

Mr NIXON MANGAPE – Thank you, Mr Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for Mining and the Minister for Works and the Prime Minister are to take notes.

Early this year the Mineral Resources Authority advertised a tender to build the Pogera-Tari Road.

(1) Since it was tendered I have not heard of any work on that road so can you tell this House when the work will start and who has been awarded the contract?

(2) Within the Special Mining lease there is a problem wherein a land area of 50m by 50m has sank. The school on it has closed and 1500 people have been displaced.

07/05

So, whose responsibility is it? The National Government or the Developer.

Thank you. Mr Speaker.

Mr BYRON CHAN – Mr Speaker, The question relate to the Pogera-Tari road that I noted that the CSTB Tender processes was deferred but contracted to who to be awarded, I' am not clear at this moment, I have to get back to you in writing in that matter.

(2) the land that sinks, the Honourable Member, that is the responsible of the Mining Company if it's in the SML area and I'll be tasking my Department, they have been up there already last week to address the situations, we waiting on the report and the way forward to address the relocations of the 1500 people in that area, so if the Honourable Member can give some time for me to write to him.

Mr TIMOTHY MASIU – I would like to ask this question to the good Minister for Inter Government Relations, but he is not at the chamber. the Prime Minister, if you can response to the questions, On the 8 of this month August I have set up DDA board for South Bougainville and on today's Daily Newspaper Post Courier under section (2) Bougainville DDA Board not apply in Bougainville and NCD, would like to get some clarifications on how the people of Bougainville release this statement from principal Legal officer of ABG that represented the four Members of Bougainville that we were wrong to appoint the DDA Board. Can the Honourable Prime Minister give some assurance? Or give some response on how to re-structure the DDA Board in Bougainville so that we can make it work help people to delivery services from the Government.

Mr Speaker, that DSIP and PSIP came from the National Government that we must acquits to the National Government not ABG that I believe. But I want to get good answers where Lawyers will give me Legal Media Advices that will come to the media and talk about me on how to make this happen. So Please the good Prime Minister, can you response to my question with clarifications on this matter. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr PETER O NEIL – I thank the Member for South Bougainville. Mr Speaker, NCDC and Bougainville still part of Papua New Guinea and the same laws applies to everybody and I see no reasons why you cannot set up a DDA in South Bougainville and that is the define boundary of Electoral Commission and the electors that you represented clearly articulate that. I'm not familiar and with the conflicts that you raising because of the sections that you are quoting but I will get the State Solicitors to write to you and explain to you, but I see no reasons why the DDA establishment should not proceed in Bougainville and NCDC.

Mr Speaker, this funds are provide by National Government and you are Acuity to the Office of Rural Development and they, then acquit to Parliament.

Mr Speaker, So I will get them to explain legal aspect of things by to the state solicitors to you, but as far I 'am concern that you are on the right track just keep going. Mr Speaker,

08/05

Installing Observatory Equipment

Mr JIM KAS – I direct my questions to the Mining Minister. Last week the Member for South Bougainville raised issues concerning volcanic eruptions in Bougainville. There were also eruptions in Manam, East New Britain and Mt Lamington.

Mr Speaker, my questions to the Minister are; has he any plans to restoring the equipment at the Rabaul Observatory? The observatory needs equipment that will be reporting the activities about the volcanoes in the country. This is so that it gives ample time for us to carryout evacuations and other necessary things. We do not have the equipment to inform us about possible eruptions for us to carry out the necessary remedies.

My question is, what has he done about installing the required equipment to observe the volcanoes in the country?

Mr BYRON CHAN – Two years ago I launched one of the latest equipment with the department here in Port Moresby. That equipment monitors all the seismic activities in the region and especially for our region. They are also linked up to Madang and Samarai and those equipment are already in place.

With the Rabaul Observatory, we are looking at rebuilding that existing building to be able to include more people and machines to facilitate the existing areas because they are too small and we have that on line. But to reassure the Governor and the people of Papua New Guinea, at this time those machines that I launched with the department are the latest and we have them all around the country. Therefore at this time we are up grading the facilities like staff houses and the observatory itself.

Assurance on Students Safe Return

Mr TITUS PHILEMON – I direct my questions to the Minister for Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology. But before I ask my questions I congratulate him on his appointment on behalf of my people of Milne Bay.

Mr Speaker, my questions are in regard to resumption of classes at our two premier universities and they are as follows:

- (1) Can the Minister guarantee the safety of the students returning back to the universities?
- (2) What is the Government's stand on self-sponsored students who have been flown back to their provinces?

09/05

Mr Speaker, we aware that the HECAS and TESAS tickets are already been provided by the Department of Higher Education, we are just concerned on the self-sponsored students how they will afford to return back to their classes.

Thank you. Mr Speaker.

Mr FRANCIS MARUS – Thank you, Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Governor for Milne Bay for his questions.

Firstly, to assure the good Governor and all the citizens of this country that yes, the situation has arrived, in terms of the suspension and the termination of the school year and that has really caused problems for our students who are now missing out on the academic year and over time it has now developed for them that they are now willing to come back to class.

So, for students the onus is on themselves to come back to school and for my Department the onus is now on us to make sure that there is space. The respective governors from Hela and Southern Highlands are getting their students to settle their issues up in Hagen, sometime this weekend and then they will move down to Lae, where the Governor for Morobe and the University of Technology Counsels will host the ceremony. After the ceremony they will all resume class.

The guarantee of safety is there, we have the Police currently maintaining the campus just to detect any foreign of outside influence that are trying to distort the good intention of the resumption of the academic year.

So, I am just assuring the good Governor that safety is of paramount and we have measures in place that will oversee the resumption of the academic year is done amicably.

In response to his second question in terms of the self-sponsor students, I have made a special requests to the Governors of each provinces to assist our students to return to class because in circumstances like this, it is not of our doing.

But, I am appealing to them and also the parents to see the significance of education and make sure that they assist our children in whatever cheapest means of transport so that they return back to class.

Thank you.

Logging Operation in Gulf

Mr HAVILA KAVO – Thank you, Mr Speaker, I have a series of questions that I would like to ask the Minister for Forestry.

We see the very beautiful, biggest hotel built in the city of Port Moresby, called the Forest or Rain Forest Hotel by one of the biggest companies operating in the country.

My questions are:

1. Are you aware that RH operating in Gulf which is the second largest logging permit areas in the country has been operating without a permit for the last three years?

Mr Speaker, under the permit the developer has to honour some of this major agreements, one of them is the reforestation program where the Forestry Department and the Developer replant a tree for every tree they cut down. This program has never been implemented since the operations of logging in Papua New Guinea.

In Gulf, there are about three or four major logging operating permit areas, in the agreement they are supposed to have built in every permit area one processing facility?

10/05

As of today, only one in Gulf where they are supposed to have four. Why has the developer overlooked those agreements, there are no roads, bridges, aid posts or water supplies, no social obligations. This is very bad for a developer constructing flashy hotels in the city and overlooking areas where logs are being cut and not much benefits have been given back to the people. Thankyou Mr Speaker.

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – Thankyou Mr Speaker, I would like to also thank the Governor of Gulf province for his series of questions. First of all let me make it very clear here, Mr Speaker, no company operates in this country without a permit, and RH for that matter is a very big company that employs hundreds and thousands of Papua New Guineans and it would be illegal to operate a company without permit.

For this Parliaments purpose and for the rest of Papua New Guinea to know, we keep a very close eye on every operation in this country.

Mr Speaker, about three weeks ago, I asked for a report to be furnished to my office and I haven't seen this company operating without a permit, in fact the permit was already renewed and if the Governor himself does not know, the approval has come through the PFMC of Gulf province that has given the okay to renew the permit. I will definitely furnish that report to the Governor's Office.

Mr Havila Kavó – Point of Order! As of last month, I believe my PFMC refrained from extending the licence because it has been operating illegally for more than three years.

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – I am actually confused with the Governor's question, now I'll be honest because just like I said, three weeks ago I received confirmation that all the operations down there are in order. He is telling me here, that just last week his PFMC mentioned something else. Let me put it this way, when the PFMC approves something it takes three years before it is being reviewed. So obviously they are reviewing something down there within the three years operation.

Mr Speaker, let me make it very clear, that when we went to Paris with the Prime Minister, he made an announcement of forest planting where about 800,000 trees by 2050 and –

Mr Havila Kavó – Point of Order! I'm talking about the agreement.

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – These are things that are supposed to be done on day one, not tomorrow or today. These agreements were entered into 20 years ago and reforestation is something that should have happened a long time ago.

Today, those forests are no more forests or trees, they are just vines or bushes and Teradau is just one of those areas and Kamusi too. Reforestation was one of the packages of agreement, when one tree is cut down, two are planted in its place so that trees continue to grow.

Mr Speaker, I ask that you allow me to answer the questions that the Governor has placed before me.

Mr Speaker, in the nursery it does not take one or two days for a tree to grow first.

11/05

We have put down our reports. We have said that we are going to plant more than 800 thousand trees, and all the areas that we are looking at is the very area he is talking about.

We have got officers down there who are establishing nurseries where nurseries have never been established in the last decade.

(Members interjecting)

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – I'm getting there!

So, some people have to be thankful that some of us have come here, taken responsibility, so those trees will be planted because we have gone to the international conventions, Mr Speaker.

We have gone to the international conventions and said, we are going to do it, and we are making it happen. For the first time we have got an inventory that has taken place.

(Members interjecting)

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – And so, you have got to be thankful that measures have been taken. We are also thankful that this government has put its feet down where its mouth is. We are just not making big talk here.

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – Mr Prime Minister, I mean, Mr Speaker.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – You have all gone and made me call the Prime Minister for nothing.

Mr Speaker, Gulf Province for that matter, yes, there is an agreement for three more facilities to be built. The facilities that we have there are downstream processing facilities and they are of world class.

Today, some of the permits that we signed for the export of veneer and sawn wood comes out from that area. It employs more than 3, 000 young men and women there. Yes, we are also thankful to our logging partners and the landowners of Papua New Guinea who continue to provide employment where some of us cannot provide employment for these remote areas. They provide hundreds of employment for our people. They put bread and butter on their tables where you and I cannot be there for them.

For the permit, Mr Speaker, I will go back and look at the license again but let me make it very clear that these licenses have not expired. The company has operated within the boundaries. I will come back with a written report to make certain that whatever the

Governor has mentioned is clarified to this Parliament and to the people of Papua New Guinea.

**AUDITOR-GENERAL OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA – REPORT OF
THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES PART II, 2013-2014 – PAPER –
MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, pursuant to statute, I present a Report of the Auditor-General of Papua New Guinea on the National Government Departments and Agencies, Part II – 2013-2014.

Motion (by **Mr Bob Dadae**) agreed to –

That the Parliament take note of the Paper and the Report be referred to the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts.

Debate adjourned.

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 No.330 being called on forthwith.

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UNITED NATIONS PARIS AGREEMENT (IMPLEMENTATION) BILL 2016

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 (Kompiam-Ambum – Minister for Environment and conservation and Climate Change) – I move –

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr Speaker, I thank you for giving me the Floor to speak. Having recently returned from Paris, France after attending the Conference of Parties COP 21 meeting in December last years, I would like to take this opportunity to inform this honourable House on a special piece of history that will be created today as Parliament ratifies the Paris Climate Change Agreement.

Mr Speaker, the Paris Agreement was opened for signature on 22 April 2016 at a high level signature ceremony convened by the Secretary General in New York. At that ceremony, 174 States including Papua New Guinea signed the agreement and 15 States also deposited their instruments of ratification.

As of 3 August 2016, there are 180 signatories to the Paris Agreement. Of these, 22 States have also deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval accounting in total for 1.08 percent of the total global greenhouse gas emissions. The decision taken today by Parliament will enable Papua New Guinea to join the above list of countries when it deposits its instrument of ratification in the UN Depository next month in New York during the High Level United Nations General Assembly.

Mr Speaker, during the COP 21 Meeting in Paris, France last year, I briefly talked about the special relationship that exists between men and nature in my country. I stated that in Papua New Guinea, our ancestors had lived in harmony with the natural environment which in turn provided all necessities for our ancestors' survival and sustenance.

Our ancestors depended on the natural environment such as flora and fauna and the natural environment depended on our ancestors to conserve and sustain it. Environment conservation and sustainability principles are therefore not unique to us; they are inherent in our customs and traditions since time immemorial.

Mr Speaker, when our ancestors were living harmony with the natural environment, the people in other countries particularly the industrialized and middle income countries had tempered with their natural environments in their pursuit of quality life and happiness through industrialization.

History and scientific evidence now proves that the continuous tempering of the nature by the emission of greenhouse gases from the industries has accumulated over time in the atmosphere and is now causing variations in the weather patterns or climate change as we all know.

Global warming is causing ice caps in the north and south poles to melt and increase the volume of sea water. The effects of which are evident in Papua New Guinea, for instance, the recent frost and drought up in the highlands, people on the Catarat islands in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, including islands in Manus Province and the outer islands in the coastal provinces are being covered by the rise in the sea level. These rural communities and their livelihoods are permanently lost. The sea and inland flooding and unusual weather patterns that destroyed our infrastructures such as roads and bridges across the country recently are the results of climate change. I reminded the global community, in particular the developed nations that the effects of climate change are real and are happening not because of our ancestor's faults or demonstration of our failures, no, it is due to the actions of those people who had and continue to pursue happiness through industrialization ahead of us.

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Mr Speaker, as a member of the global community, we need to assist as much as we can to reduce to mitigate the emission of greenhouse gasses to avoid catastrophes in the future. Our contribution to the global community is more crucial and necessary now.

Some industrialised and middle income countries continue to abstain from entering into legally binding agreements to avoid economic repercussions but our bold and affirmative action today will go a long way to demonstrate our stand in addressing climate change regionally and internationally.

My Speaker, Papua New Guinea had accepted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol which has now been superseded by the Paris Agreement.

Though Papua New Guinea is not obligated, we voluntarily participated in the international negotiations with the UNFCCC member countries to address climate change issues. In that respect, as a country, our significant contribution so far was to push for the recognition of our rainforests as a greenhouse gas sequesters or carbon sinks.

Mr Speaker, it is at this juncture that I must commend the services of a distinguished citizen of this country and climate change champion, Mr Kino Wenge for his services in the drafting of the *Climate change Management Act 2015*.

Mr Wenge was the legal architect who led the legal team in drafting the climate change legislation which is the first in the region and third in the world after UK and Mexico. This important piece of legislation gave Papua New Guinea the voice to negotiate in Paris which resulted in a very positive outcome with most priority areas including the final Paris Agreement. Mr Wenge unfortunately passed away on Wednesday last week and could not witness this occasion which would have given him the greatest of joy and satisfaction in knowing that his hard work did not go in vain. Despite not being paid his full legal fees for legal work done since 2014, Mr Wenge continued tirelessly to serve his country until God called him up to be with him.

It is individuals like Mr Wenge and his family that I would like to thank and commend on this occasion on behalf of this country. May God, bless his family and his soul rest in eternal peace.

Mr Speaker, at this point, I am humbled and would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Prime Minister, Honourable Peter O'Neill again for his leadership in setting the pace in the first few days of the COP and for delivering the national statement during the opening statement in the plenary. Also my colleague Members of Parliament both on the Government and the Opposition benches for their support to create history for Papua New Guinea by passing the *Climate Change (Management) Act* into law last year with an unanimous 64 to zero votes unopposed.

This is history because we are among the first countries in the world to put together an overarching climate change policy and legal framework for climate change and its relative activities. It was this piece of legislation that gave me the voice and foundation to negotiate during the high level sessions in Paris.

Mr Speaker, the National Parliament's passage of the *Climate Change (Management) Act* is the culmination of the country's commitment to addressing climate change and most importantly, reaffirm the government's action in sustaining and conserving the natural environment, including the rainforests and coral reefs which are the major sinks of greenhouse gasses.

I also pointed out for Papua New Guinea, REDD+ is a national priority, whose effective implementation depends on the provision of adequate financial support and technology transfer by developed country parties.

Mr Speaker, we negotiated and stated that Papua New Guinea supports the Paris Agreement which anchors the REDD+ mechanism and all its accompanying decisions.

I emphasise the REDD+ should be an integral part of the Paris deal and should be fully integrated into the various sections of the agreement, namely; mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology transfer and capacity building.

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Accordingly, a dedicated article has now been given under Article 5 to establish REDD+ as a Framework anchoring all REDD+ related COP decisions, including the Warsaw Framework for REDD+, into the agreement.

Mr Speaker, I was pleased with the inclusion of REDD+ as a separate article 5 in the final Paris Agreement text, which was supported by Pacific Island Leaders following on from the Declaration signed at the Pacific Island Forum Leaders meeting last year.

Mr Speaker, as mentioned earlier, the oceans and forests and its resources are intertwined with our well-being and existence. Sustainable development without addressing the main drivers of climate change is bound to fail.

During the negotiations I emphasized on the point that the adverse impacts of climate change cannot and must not be underplayed. For small island developing states in the Pacific regions, we are already impacted adversely through sea level rise extreme weather events, slow onset, loss and damage and some of the low lying atoll countries existence is at serious risks.

Mr Speaker, we have learnt the cross cutting nature of the climate change which has broken barriers and boundaries and in turn has helped us to take national ownership and leadership that has enabled us to develop a home grown climate change policy and legal framework which we have aligned with our national Constitution, Vision 2050, National

Strategic plan 2010-2030, Medium Term Development Plans and the National Strategy for responsible Sustainable Development.

Our National Climate Compatible Development management Policy together with the Climate Change (Management) Act 2015 will be the platform for Papua New Guinea to use our strategic assets like the nature environment to provide global green solutions as a responsible global citizen.

For instance, the provision of clean energy through the shipment of LNG overseas and the provision of clean air through conservation of our forests as the lungs of the earth.

Mr Speaker, We have laid a strong foundation that will allow the country to transition into low carbon pathway. The Government is fully committed to ensuring that we manages this transformation carefully and effectively to ensures that it delivers the maximum economic benefit to all our citizens whilst protecting our natural resources for our future generations.

Mr Speaker, In closing, Papua New guinea has set in place the necessary institutional structures and using the combined lessons learned from the Kyoto Protocol and the past 40 years as a country with economic opportunities, I urge this Honourable House to welcome the Ratification of the Paris Agreement in the interest of our future generation and pledge our commitment to achieving the objectives of the United Nations framework convention on Climate Change.

Mr JIM KAS (Madang) – Mr Speaker, Climate change is no laughing matter and I think Climate Change affecting Papua New Guinea as a country our provinces, our Districts, and our little Hamlets, from where ever we come from.

Mr Speaker, I would like commend the Minister for bringing this Bill forward to this Honourable House so that we can address this issues that is treating all of us from the highlands to the coastlines and up to the highlands. Things that we never seen before are happening before our eyes and I think we cannot deny that, for us in Madang this time of year we used to have what we call Arai or the south east winds blowing season to the reefs of Madang especially Kalibobo Light Haus and the effects of it, we can see grass dying on the seashores.

Right now as I'm speaking it is raining in Madang and it has been happening for the last few years, I think that in the small way is Climate Change. From Bougainville we hear of the Catarats been over run or overcome with sea. To Manus to New Ireland and to the

Highlands of PNG, mosquitos' borne diseases that we have never heard of before are prevalent up in the Highlands and giving us health problems.

Mr Speaker, in order for us as Papua New Guineans to rectifying or to understanding what we have brought before World Conference like the Paris Agreement. I would like to adhere to this Honourable Parliament and the people of Papua New Guinea to know that we have to get ourselves organised and especially with conservation areas to seas areas to be conserved for the river ways for the sections, for certain areas in the Highlands to have it conserved.

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We have to have policies and a very clear understanding of how we can have all these places conserved so that it goes in line with the international agreement that is before us.

Mr Speaker, in commending the Prime Minister for leading us to Paris and for Papua New Guinea being recognised as country addressing the climate change issues at the country level, I would like to commend the Minister for bringing this law here. I believe that whatever we have been doing here is being recognised by international assemblies. Having heard from the Minister that whatever we will be passing in Parliament will be brought to the United Nations at its New York meeting I therefore believe the Prime Minister and the country needs to be commended.

As I have previously mentioned, climate change is affecting us and we as a nation will have to be very serious about what we are doing from the provincial level to the districts in addressing this issue.

We have had budgets and plans and there we very good but we have not planned for disasters. Climate change has been eating into all our plans and budgets because that is one thing we have not planned for. I think it is very commendable for the Minister to have brought this bill to Parliament and I stand ready to support this bill.

Mr GARRY JUFFA (Northern) – I too wish to contribute to this very important matter. I commend the Minister and his efforts have been very remarkable. He has been very energetic and enthusiastic and I would also like to commend the Government is supporting him. Having said that I would like to add a few things that we as a nation should take note of.

To try to support this bill and also allow unsustainable human development to take place is going to see us moving a step forward and a step back. Progress with therefore be

slow. As long as we allow illegal logging to take place in this country then this effort is meaningless. It is the forest that are the lungs of this earth.

The fact of the matter is that scientist all over the world have agreed that global warming is a reality. They have agreed at various conventions that this is because of unsustainable human activity and it is happening in our country. We have the third largest rainforest in the world but it is fast disappearing. Much of our flora and fauna are disappearing and we are not doing enough to protect them. We are not being innovative enough to look at other means by which we could allow our people to earn a living and yet not destroy our forest.

The destruction of our environment is the reason why we are seeing all these problems that we are seeing right now. Floods, landslips, rising sea levels and so forth are all happening because human activity. Therefore besides supporting what we trying to support here we must take up a holistic approach in so far as logging is concerned. What else can we do other than chop down all this forest at will and whim, it seems.

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I am glad to see that the Forest Minister is embarking on a plan to carry out reforestation, it is a little late but its better late than never but you cannot put the entire ecosystem of a forest intact as it used to be, we are humans, we are not God.

Prevention is always better than cure, there are other ways to develop a nation, there are other ways to earn an income, let us not be fooled by transnational criminals who are here telling us that we must get rid of all these forest resources, that we must exploit all our natural resources and they know how to do it and they can do it and they are the only ones for a fee and we must all sit back and except whatever they pay us.

We are intelligent people here and we have many experts, such as the experts that put this document together, they are now all over the world serving other parts of the world, we can bring them back. We can sit down and think about what is going to happen in the next 10 to 20 years, the decisions we make today will determine the tomorrow of our children. What tomorrow are we leaving them? What nation are we leaving them?

In my province, I am seeing the disappearance of forest that is affecting the largest butterfly in the world, it is estimated that in the next 5 years this butterfly will be only recorded in history and they will be no living evidence of it.

This is just one creature, there are many other creatures like that who also have a right to live on earth, what has given humans their right to take away their homes? How is it that, we humans arrogantly believe that we are the only ones to do as we please? We have been given intelligence so that we can manage the environment in order to be responsible but we are not being responsible. I tell you, we are being very irresponsible and yet the power to do all of these is here within us, right here in this very House to make those decisions.

We cannot on the one hand continue to allow these illegal exploitations to take place, these abuse to take place and then on the other hand try to run to the international forum and tell the world that we are doing great things insofar as that Climate Change is concerned.

Our ancestors lived for 50 000 years managing the environment, they didn't try to modify it to suit other purposes such as greed and profit but they lived with and within it. We must learn from how we can live in a sustainable manner.

Let us also look at our population, our population is one of the highest in the world, it is said to be about 3 per cent. Now, if you look at the population statistics that we are being told, and it varies between 8 and 11 million because our National Statistic is defunct and has never done a census, so we do not really know how many people are in this country but let us say that it is 8 million at 3 per cent growth rate that is 200 000 people per year. That is a size of a small province, where is their administration? Where is their goods and services? Where is there land? We must have an effective population policy in place, we must start to educate our people about this.

God is not making any more new land, but humans keep making humans, this is the fact and reality but it is within us to make a difference by putting together these policies so that we can control this ridiculous population growth, we must educate our people.

Sustainable farming methods are available, technology is progressing in such a way that we can make use of these opportunities so we do not have to deforest everything, we do not have to over fish all our waters but we can look at means which we can allow our people to earn a reasonable income and still have the environment and still be able to take care of our flora and fauna.

We can empower the Ministries that are relevant here for example the Forest Ministry, give them the resources to travel around the country and carry out their reforestation programs to go and conduct inspections, to face our what is illegal logging.

Let us not think that these people are our friends, let us not be mistaken here, they are only here for one reason, it is for profit and that is all, let us not be confused here, they are panelling their proceeds off-shore.

We are the ones who are left with the barren earth and a population of people with nothing else but bitter dreams and hopes, broken contracts, unfulfilled agreements and they will come back to us and how are we going to take care of them.

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I commend the Minister he is doing a great job, but I would like our Government, gentlemen and ladies, you have the power within you to be decisive. Let us not be mediocre in our decision making, let us say this is a danger to our nation. What is happening is not in the best interest of our country or people so we must do away with it. That is the responsibility of us leaders, that is why we are here, to protect and promote PNG interest at all times 24 hours, seven days a week, 365 days for our entire term.

My leaders we are the ones that will determine what will happen tomorrow, nobody else. No saviour is going to come from another planet or country and save Papua New Guinea. It is up to you and I and we must make those decisions. We must save our nation and we must be innovative and creative and look at technology and partner with those who have the same interest as us and provide sustainable solution for our people so that we are not destructive and irresponsible with our environment. At the end of the day, that is the price that we will ultimately pay. Our people will pay.

We see it in the Catarats Islands, the first global warming refugees in the world, it is happening there, floods, strange weather patterns, high seas, and it is all happening because of these unsustainable activities. We must come together and make some decisions to save our people and our nation, thank you very much.

Mr JAMES MARAPE (Tari-Pori-Minister for Finance) – Thank you for giving me an opportunity to join in the debate on this issue. I would like to place on record and Hansard my views in regard to the work that Minister Pundari has been doing in respect to the Climate change issues in this country.

Firstly, let me commend the Minister, he has really elevated the status of the Department and that Ministry and has really done a wonderful job in as far as leading our nations voice on global forums as far as climate change issues are concerned. I take note

especially in our response to COP 21. The Minister has indicated that we are third, the only third country after UK and Mexico to subscribe to the latest climate change standards and changes that every country in the world should subscribe to.

Mr Speaker, may I firstly place my total dismay and that is the reason why I am standing up. As an individual Member of Parliament, I am in dismay to many of the large industrialised countries in the world who continue to come in huge entourage to global event like the COP 21 in Paris.

Mr Speaker, I take the Minister back to the Kyoto Protocol that was the first get together of global leaders on the issue of climate change and after the Kyoto Protocol was done, none of the top five economies in the world subscribed to the Kyoto principles. The United States of America, China, Japan, Germany, UK at that time and Australia next door. The economies that contribute totally to more than 90 per cent of global; carbon emission. None of them subscribed to the Kyoto Protocol and subsequent other agreements bought together by global leaders as far as climate change is concerned. And today, yet again they came in big numbers and made big noise in Paris, sadly none them have signed yet.

Mr Environment Minister, please, I take this time to stand up and ask you, when you go in as little as you are, when you go to global forums.

Mr Speaker, Papua New Guinea represents the interest of more than one third of this worlds smaller nations.

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And, of the one third, Mr Speaker, more than 20 or 30 nations of them are very small Island States.

Mr Speaker, I would like to voice what Minister Pundari and our Prime Minister has stated, not only for us to subscribe here and having subscription today by way of passing an *Act* of Parliament. But it gives us more footing to stand on global forums and to continue to raise the voice of smaller island nations who continue to pay the price at the expense of the economic greed of the bigger countries of the world, who contribute to more than 90 percent of global carbon emissions.

Mr Speaker, having said this, I would like to zero-in on PNG. Our contribution on the global carbon emission, our footprint is very minimal. May be the greatest contribution insofar as our country's contribution is concerned is the substance and agricultural farming with the logging industry.

Mr Speaker, nevertheless, on the other side when you balance these two issues out. We as a nation have every right to also progress in our economic progress also.

Mr Speaker, therefore, I cannot sit back here and hear a government sponsored NGO or a scientist from Western countries and an advanced economy coming to tell me, preserve your forests.

Mr Speaker, on record, and the Governor Juffa has eluded to and he said third. My views tell me that we are the second biggest and undisturbed parcel of rainforests in the world. We are the second biggest and about 12 percent and the Amazon rainforests come first. That means a substantial amount of carbon sink takes place in our forests and as well as in our oceans. So, who compensates us for the fact that we clean the world of carbon pollution? Who compensates us? That is a question that we must ask.

When the advanced economies and the developed nations continue down the path of emitting carbon monoxides into the world and into the atmosphere, who compensates us? For us to preserve 12 percent of the world's rainforests.

Mr Speaker, we must find a balance somewhere and let me encourage the Minister to continue going down the path because we must find a balance. Now, in our rainforests and also in our marine ecosystems we have 6 to 7 percent of the world's biodiversity.

Mr Speaker, and so, subscribing to international conventions or agreements like we just recently to COP 21 is very good. And that gives us a platform for us to continue to raise this, but let me throw another dimension into this one. I like the view that Papua New Guinea is subscribing to all these not because we are told to do so by big economies but because of our own moral obligation to the land and the resources that we have in our country.

Mr Speaker, going into the future, bio-economics will be the word into the future.

Mr Speaker, eco-tourism will be the word into future. Organic agriculture will be the word into the future and we have all these. And these are intangible assets that our country has and I would like to commend the Minister to secure our country of all these assets that we have. Not because someone in the US tells us to do it or someone in Australia tells us to do it but because we as a country feel that it is our inherent right to protect the assets we have in our rainforests, in our bio-diversity, in our natural flora and fauna we have today.

I would therefore like to commend the Minister for doing this work, but I would also like to encourage him and his ministry to look into the benefits that these legislations will provide to us. And at global forums PNG has the numbers behind us. And when you look at the way our government through our leadership of our Prime Minister as well our Minister

has been leading the smaller Island States. The numbers that you give when you come to the United Nations' Forums. One vote is equivalent to the vote that the US President has or the bigger leaders of the bigger countries have.

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I would like to encourage the Minister to strongly consolidate on the smaller Island States and the numbers they have, and to seek equal benefits from issues like the climate change.

How can small island nation pay the price of something that is not of their doing, and it is not right. How can the bigger nation come to us and tell us don't cut your forests and yet they continue to emit carbon monoxide into the atmosphere.

So, this are the issues that we have to find balance. I would like to continue to encourage the Minister that we are now giving him the platform to say yes. We are the only third nation in the world to have passed this one and for the Minister to continue voice on behalf of the small island nations to fight for our rights.

Sometimes, I sit in discussions and get tired when western sponsored NGOs tell us not to cut our forests. I am promoting conservation and preserving not because you say so. Your country has deforested your forests but I am preserving my forests based on the principles of my country, sustainability and conserving for the future. It pains me to have NGOs from western countries telling us to conserve when they do not bring in a cent of dollars into our country to help us in our development agreements.

Let me commend the Minister and I once again encourage him. As you speak on the forums, you are an expert now since you are speaking the environmental language very well, so as you continue to speak balance the issues for the need of our country and developing kina as well promoting that in PNG.

We have huge biodiversity that can become global efforts. We have our biodiversity preserved and the rainforests preserved not because they tell us to do so but we are doing this as a government and responsible leaders for our future generations.

Ms LOUJAYA KOUZA (Lae) – Thank you Mr Speaker for allowing me this opportunity to take part in the debate and I commend the Honourable Minister for bringing this Bill to the Floor.

My contribution to the debate is basically for the need for a consultation effort towards the sustainable solution and one where it would be of benefit to have non extractive and extractive ministries: forestry, fisheries along with the environment and conservation climate change ministry sit together in a consultative way by aligning our legislation.

The best practice is to reflect that one stop shop approach whereby we walk the same walk and talk the same talk with regards to what portray towards international best practices.

We have contribution to make, a very large contribution in the international arena for what we have done so far and the message that we are carrying out internationally.

However, we need to tighten the screws in-house because there are pieces of legislations lying around that needs to be reviewed and again in our approaches that we have seen so far, we need that consultative effort to tight up the loose ends. The best way to do it is with the consultative effort where all ministries across the divide look and align what our commonalities are, what our point of difference is and how much strengths are going forward.

We still have a lot of ratification agreements that we have fined but are not today adhered to or stepped up to. We have given excuses for not meeting the time frame so I think it is time to stock take. We can do this and I would task the honourable Minister for bringing this Bill to the House that we will support you in our vote of confidence in this Bill.

I would personally like to charge you with the responsibility of calling the shorts for the alignment.

Mr WERA MORI (Chuave) – I commend the Minister for bringing this Bill to Parliament.

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I wish to make a small contribution but prior to that I also want to commend the Minister for the good piece of legislation he has presented and also the Prime Minister on his leadership in this aspect.

Mr Speaker, at the outset I concur 100 per cent with the Minister for Finance and Leader of Government Business. Why should these so-called developed countries like the United States and those countries in Europe tell us to do this and do that when they have been responsible for the emission of greenhouse gasses that destroyed the ozone layer which is basically a concentration of three oxygen molecules that shield the radiation from the sun and

split that, so that when you remove the ozone layer it melts down the ice at the north and south poles.

Mr Speaker, this is very unfair and they must be penalised. We know that the industrial development in China has slowed down as a consequence of the slowdown in the export of coal from Australia.

Mr Speaker, it may be their contribution towards addressing this problem but this is not enough and not only for Australia but also for other countries doing that.

Mr Speaker, while we would like to embark on policies and etcetera, I would like to talk about very practical things. How can we in PNG mitigate the impact of global warming? See, global warming is a juggernaut. It is a faceless monster. We cannot regulate whether it will happen or not because we know that we will experience this in PNG through the prolonged extreme weather patterns we have experienced year in year out.

And it is about time that, as a nation, we must take stock, not only in trying to talk about policies on how we reduce the amount of log we harvest or how we do this and do that. But we must look at measures as to how we can respond when we have those impacts.

Mr Speaker, we don't need to look far. Every year we lose our roads up in the Highlands, especially the Highlands Highway with extensive development of landslips. We know that we have lost the Carteret's Islands because of the consequences of the level of sea rising but how can we respond to that. And I know that I have said this on a previous occasion on this Floor and I will say it again, in the past, during the colonial administration they monitor the weather pattern effectively so that they will be in a position to be able to mitigate the impact of those weather patterns when they happen.

I know that some little places in Chuave which has never appeared on the map of PNG, every morning at 10.00 o'clock they call Lae on Hi Frequency radio and tell them of how much rainfall was experienced the previous night. It was the same all over Papua New Guinea. From there they work out a weather pattern over a period of five or 10 years and are able to predict when the dry spell will set in and when the wet weather will come on. So they were able to prepare for the landslips, they have these Works Divisions which were on standby and whenever the landslides occur at Daulo Pass they were able to fix it.

But now where are they? These things are not happening. We are not collecting the primary data. We are not having the baseline studies which are so critical to us.

Mr Speaker, when you look at Ramu Hydro and at Rouna over here, every time we scream when PNG Power rations power due to a fall in water levels. This is the very thing

I'm talking about. We must be able to collect these primary data so that we can be able to respond to the impacts when they do happen.

Nowadays, as a consequence of global warming the entire world is moving away from fossil fuel to bio-fuel and some months ago on the front page of a newspaper there was an article about studies being conducted to mine for coal in Papua New Guinea.

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That is not a good idea and we must not encourage coal productions in Papua New Guinea and anywhere. That is dirty and it is not good because it also contributes to the global warming gases which goes up in the air which is one contributing factor.

Mr Speaker, there's more things that we can do to look for ways to how we can effectively mitigate this. We have almost one million children who goes to school in Papua New Guinea. Why not we pass a law that every year, one child must plant a tree every year, so that every year we have one million children with one million trees planted and the following year the same thing goes on so that within 10 to 20 years we might have 20 million trees been planted and that's one of the positive way we can do about carbon emanation.

Mr Speaker, on the positive note of global warming and sea level rising, as a Highlander I have that advantage, like in Chuave the mango trees do not bear fruit but now mangos trees are bearing mango fruits. What basically tells me now is that some crops that usually grow at the coast can now be grown up in the highlands. This basically means also is that I can increase cultivation from 2 300 metres to 2 500 meters.

So the challenge is now with the primary industry to look into how we can grow some crops in such altitudes which never grow such crops before. So this is the positive outcome of this change. But at the same time, two weeks ago we did Kundiawa hospitals fund raising and a point we raised which gave us some challenge is that due to global warming some sicknesses (diseases) are becoming complicated to deal with. New air-borne diseases that are complicating themselves due to global warming are on the rise responding to changing weather pattern. Now this is a challenge.

So to mitigate such things like this, I want the Medical Research Institutes based in Goroka to be adequately funded so that they may effectively research and address those new air-borne diseases that are coming about due to global warming.

Thank you Mr Speaker, that's my small contribution.

Mr Francis Awesa – My small contribution to this debate is that I want to appreciate the Prime Minister to bring up this agenda on climate change to the international forum in Paris and here in PNG we can introduce this legislation. I also want to commend the Minister, honourable John Pundari for this important legislation.

I think this is a very important time in our effort to talk about climate change issues and we can try to mitigate the damage done and caused by climate change in partnership with the international community. One thing I want to raise is in relation to section 9 of that bill. It talks about accessing funding and other services from the international donor agencies and the government.

Mr Speaker, what I want to say here is that, the previous agreements in Tokyo and Rio in Brazil and the latest one in Paris.

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The two previous ones were not implemented fully because some of these big countries like China and USA had disagreements amongst themselves and so we lost many years in between. The way I see it is that the latest one in Paris gives a lot of amenities among those countries which were not agreeing to some of the issues in implementation. They did agree and are moving forward to combating climate change in a positive way such that many of these countries will be contributing towards nations like Papua New Guinea. Institutions like banks and companies like Qantas will be required to pay funds as penalties.

Under section 9 and the way I see it is that we need to be aware that having access to funds coming from donor agencies, governments and banks which there are millions available at the moment for us to access. We have done the first thing by legislating and I think we have to get the transparency issue right in the use of these funds coming in. In this regard, I want to see forestry, planning and the office of climate change involved in the distribution of those funds so that it becomes transparent and we get more access to those funds in the future. Otherwise we may have a lot of meetings overseas and nothing will happen. No one will want to partner us in these efforts.

It is very critical for us to look at how we have access so that on the ground we must have transparency with the way funds come in and are distributed.

The other thing that I want to raise is that I want to say thank you to the former Prime Minister Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare who shared the agenda when he was prime

minister and now we are carry it forward. I want to place on record my support and commend him for what he has done to date.

In closing, I want to once again thank the Minister and the Prime Minister for taking a bold step in the right direction because I am a firm believer in the issue of climate change.

The other point I want to make is the way we are going about cutting our timber. A lot of people say that logging is development but I call it forest exploitation because that's what it is. We are allowing foreigners to go in there cut timber and leave nothing behind. I say this because there is a supermarket that supports local communities.

We have supermarkets in the urban centres and in the villages where they have their own supermarkets too. I want to see that when this legislation goes through Parliament today, I want see that there is a balance between Forest Management Authority which allows companies to go and cut timber and a balance with carbon projects which is allowing landowners exist from FMAs and going into carbon projects like the one that has been done properly and got the approval in the East/West Sepik project.

That project is a world class project and it is the first one in the Asia Pacific and I commend the developers for that. What we need to do now is legislate under this section 9 where it is possible to legislate so that the investors, landowners, provincial governments and the national government will participate in the carbon projects.

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So, as the next step I want to see the Minister and his Department in consultation with Forestry, Planning has to take on board and move forward.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

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

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 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 now 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 rung.

The Parliament voted (the Speaker, **Mr Theo Zurenouc** in the Chair) –

AYES – 62

NOES – 0

The Bill passed with the concurrence of an absolute majority as required by the *Constitution*.

Bill read a third time.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament do now adjourn

The Parliament adjourned at 12.50.p.m..