

EIGHTH DAY

Friday 19 August 2016

DRAFT HANSARD

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
CORRECTIONS TO DAILY DRAFT HANSARD

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 on the right side.

LEE SIROTE
Acting Principal Parliamentary Reporter

EIGHT DAY

Friday 19 August 2016

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

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

Sitting Suspended.

The Speaker (**Mr Theo Zurenuoc**) took the Chair at 10.30 a.m., and invited the Member for Nawae, **Honourable Gisuwat** to say Prayers:

‘In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit teach us how to pray to you, teach us to forgive one another and teach us to love one another and forgive each other. Here we are sinners before you, forgive our sins and give us the will and the drive to lead this country. God our Father thank you once again for making us to be leaders of this nation. Continue to give us the wisdom and knowledge so that we can run this country. Bless our Prime Minister, the Opposition Leader, the Speaker, and all the ministers and Members of Parliament. Lord we acknowledge you and we say thank you that among others you made us to be leaders. Continue to bless us and help us to speak the truth to our people and help us to deliver the services to our people. Lord thank you for this beautiful country. Once again we come before you accept us as sinners and forgive our sins and make us righteous because you are holy and righteous. We ask this in the name of our lord and saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.’

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF STUDENTS FROM PAU AND KILAKILA PRIMARY SCHOOL – STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, on behalf of the Parliament, I would like to welcome students from two of our institutions. I understand we have visiting students from the Pacific Adventist University and also from Kilakila Primary School here with us today.

QUESTIONS

Water and Sewerage Services in Daru

Mr AIDE GANASI – I direct my questions to the Minister for Public Enterprise and State Investment and the Prime Minister to take note.

Mr Speaker, we know that Water PNG has been mandated State Authority responsible for providing clean water and sewerage services to designated provinces and districts in PNG. Although Water PNG has operated in Daru Town for over 35 years now and to this date it does not provide any sewerage collection, treatment and disposal system making Daru the only centre in the country to still use the black pan system of removing human waste.

Furthermore, the water supply system is very old and obsolete making the job of providing clean and quality water a major challenge for Water PNG. These factors combined has exposed the 25 000 residents of the township to a lot of serious health risks and water bond diseases such as cholera, typhoid, diarrhoea and tuberculosis.

Mr Speaker, some years ago PNG Sustainable Development Company invested a substantial amount of money; several millions of kina to develop a water supply and sewerage system for Daru Town. When PNG Sustainable Development Program closed down its operation three years ago, it handed over the project and all its assets to Water PNG.

02/08

Mr Speaker, to this date, Water PNG has done nothing to advance the project, in fact the project has come to a complete stand still. What a waste of money?

Mr Speaker, I am coming to it about two months ago, more than K40 million pipes and fittings purchased for the project were destroyed by the bush fire which burnt the materials due to neglect and failure by Water PNG to secure them.

Mr Speaker, I have been further reliably told that the Water Treatment Plant purchased by PNG STB with our money from a supplier in Australia for Daru Town Water Supply Project at the landing cost of K7 million has been diverted to East Sepik Province by Water PNG to be used for the Yangoru Town Water Supply System which was opened a couple of weeks ago by the Prime Minister.

(Uproar in the Chamber)

Mr AIDE GANASE – Mr Speaker, I am deeply troubled and concerned about this lack of interest shown by Water PNG in dealing with the critical water and sewerage needs of my people.

Mr Speaker, my series of questions are:

(1) Why is Water PNG showing no interest at all in upgrading the water supply system in Daru?

(2) Why have Water PNG not provided safer sewerage collection system and disposal system for Daru Town?

(3) Why has Water PNG not made an effort to complete the development of water supply and new sewerage system initiated by PNG STB?

(4) Why has Water PNG diverted the Water Treatment Plant Project for Daru to Yangoru in East Sepik Province?

This Water Treatment Plant was bought by our money!

(5) Can the Minister assure me and my people that this Water Treatment Plant will be replaced by Water PNG or alternatively, can the Minister ensure that Water PNG will reimburse the cost of the Water Treatment Plant?

(6) Is Water PNG going to replace the pipes and fittings that were distorted in the fire while under their care in Daru or alternatively, can they reimburse the cost of this materials?

Since, Water PNG seems disinterested in providing water supply and sewerage service to my people in Daru Town, I would like to propose to the Ministry of Public Enterprise that they decentralise Water PNG in Daru so that South Fly District Authority can manage and operate themselves.

(7) Can they possibly consider this proposal because we will find the money and develop, manage and operate this project on our own?

We will look for the money and build that treatment if Water PNG is not interested in us.

Mr WILLIAM DUMA – Thank you, Mr Speaker, I thank the Member for South Fly for his important questions.

Mr Speaker, Water PNG has always been interested in Daru, remains so and we will not leave them. By history, Mr Speaker, Water PNG only commenced looking after Daru only 28 years ago, not 40 years ago. Originally it was the Commonwealth Department of Works, then Department of Works and finally, Water PNG took over from Daru 28 years ago.

Mr Speaker, we must realise that the Island of Daru itself has got no raw water supply. Raw water is pumped from the Vina-Turi River from the mainland.

03/08

It is then pumped across to the island, is treated and supplied to our people who are living on that island.

Mr Speaker, by way of background, the cost of actually collecting the water and transporting across to the island is more than five times and it outweighs more than the number of people who use it, so economically, it is not a money making operation for Water PNG. Water PNG has been providing water to our people who live on that island as a community social obligation.

It is viable to treat that operation on a commercial basis certainly no, but water PNG has been trying its best to make sure that at least the people living on that island have access to water. It is a small island and not all the people there can afford to pay.

Therefore, it's not an economical venture but that does not mean that Water PNG has neglected its obligations. The issue raised by the honourable Member is a fact and he has a basis for his complaint and I admit that it has its own problems.

Mr Speaker, Water PNG has not allowed the problem to become worse, it has tried its best to come up with a more modern system and when PNG Sustainable Development became aware of it, they entered into an arrangement so that PNG Sustainable Development Program would then help pay for some of the cost and some payments were made.

But PNGSDP due to reasons known only to itself, left without having any meaningful dialogue with Water PNG. One of the reasons PNGSDP used was, Water PNG had differences with them. There was no explanation provided by PNGSDP, it left but even the materials and the equipment that was purchased by PNGSDP was never transferred to Water Board.

So strictly speaking, at the time of the fire which happened sometime this year, all the equipment and the materials were not in the control and possession of Water PNG but with PNG SDP.

But to answer the Member, yes a water treatment plant originally meant for Daru was relocated to Yangoru. The reason was that, Water PNG realised there was no point in continuing to hold on to that expensive treatment plant when it became obvious that it would take time for the materials which had been lost to the fire to be then replaced. So whilst waiting for the PNGSDP and water PNG to come to an arrangement, it was decided that rather than leaving that machine unattended, we simply shipped it to our operations in Yangoru.

I can assure the good Member that Water PNG has already purchased a replacement plant and currently as we speak, it is awaiting shipment from Brisbane. As soon as it lands, we will take it to the island of Daru and work will commence. Although it is not an economic operation, Water PNG has an obligation to make sure that our people living on that island enjoy water in the future so we were in the process of fixing that problem. And Water PNG would certainly not wait for PNGSDP to fix its problems, we are going ahead and making sure our people get what is due to them.

04/08

Therefore, the Parliament will have to amend the Law if we want to go into an arrangement with the good Member, to allow his District Authority operate the centre.

Nevertheless, I can assure our Member that Kumul Consolidated Holdings Limited is in the process of organisation finance to help build up a number of other centres including Daru. I can also say that, as soon as finance is available, we will be looking at setting up a water supply system for Tari, which is the capital of Hela Province.

We are also looking at setting up a water supply system for Banz which is the capital of Hela Province, sorry, the capital for Jiwaka Province. We are also looking at Aitape which is close to the border because in a couple of years' time, it will become a very important trading centre for us. We are also looking at rehabilitating the water supply system for Oro. So, they are all in the package and as soon as financing is approved by Cabinet, and we will have the money to fix those areas and also not forgetting our town of Kundiawa.

Once again, I, have directed Water PNG to look at those centres and it is in the package and Daru is at the top of the list. Therefore, I can assure our leader from that part of the region that I will not neglect Daru, it remains part of the Water PNG System.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Supplementary Question

Merge Eda Ranu and Water PNG

Mr KERENGA KUA – The question asked by the Member for South-Fly is symptomatic of a larger problem in the government's provision and supply of clean drinking water to its towns and cities.

Therefore, I think that the problem lies with the way we are structured. The most profitable centre is Port Moresby and that is placed under Eda Ranu. The other smaller centres that are profitable are placed under PNG Water. That is why PNG Water is not able to afford the cost of providing clean water supply and sanitation to the rest of the country.

(1) Can the Minister look at reviewing this arrangement with the view of merging Eda Ranu and PNG Water so that the authority with one balance sheet and one cash flow looks after the water supply throughout all of Papua New Guinea?

And the profits generated by Port Moresby can also be used to help other towns in Papua New Guinea as we are part of one country.

(2) In that new arrangement can we re-categorise the mandate of that new entity from a for-profit to a non-profit organisation?

Therefore, it does not declare dividends to the government as a shareholder. All the profits should be retained and continuously redeployed to the maintenance of the water supply system until one day when all the water supply system and sewerage system is working 100 percent from Daru to Aitape to everywhere else, then the mandate should be changed to for-profit so that at that point in time, they can pay dividends. This is because they are losing money by paying dividends to the government.

We as a Government can raise our money from other sources. Why then should we worry about K2 million to K10 million every year from PNG Water and deplete their operating capital for infrastructure development. So, can their mandate be re-casted in that light?

Mr WILLIAM DUMA – Thank you, Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Member for Sinasina-Yongamugl and the Leader for the National Party for his questions.

Mr Speaker, yes, Kumul Consolidated Limited, Eda Ranu and Water PNG have been looking at the possibility of a merger of their operations. Nevertheless, this will be sometime down the line. It is possible for PNG Water to actually make a profit by operating the rest of the water provinces. All it needs is a combination of good management and a good board and policies, and that is something that we are looking at. Once we are satisfied that it is not necessary to do merger it is okay for us to allow Water PNG to continue to operate as it is that will be done. If on the other hand, our analysis say that in the long run it is better for those two entities to be merged then, of course, they will be taken to Cabinet which is chaired by our Prime Minister and a policy decision will be made. Then an announcement will also be made.

In listening to the second question, Mr Speaker, at this stage, it is not possible for us to simply allow a particular State-owned company to operate and to provide service under a community service obligation. They must provide a dividend to help contribute to manage the company.

05/08

The danger is that if we simply deem the entity as not for profit, then our staff and management will be under no obligation to perform competently.

So it is in our interest to know that they run those companies strictly along those lines. So that at the end of the day, money is generated otherwise, they will continue to provide those services as community service obligation.

LLG Elections and Court Petitions

Mr DE KEWANU – Thank you, Mr Speaker, for recognising the people of Mendi. I direct my questions to the Prime Minister and they are in two folds. The first lot of questions are in relation to the LLG elections. The second set of questions are in relation to the national elections and election petitions.

Mr Speaker, the LLG elections should be conducted concurrently with the 2017 National Election. The counsellors are concerned that the current term will be reduced by one year. Some LLGs have indicated the possibility of taking legal actions against the government if they do not serve the full term of five years.

The LLGs have also raised concerns on the process of voting for the council president, whether they will be voted by the counsellors or by the people.

Mr Speaker, my questions are:

(1) In respect to the council elections, can the Prime Minister clarify to this Parliament and the nation on what position the government will take on the process of voting of the council presidents?

(2) Can he also advise this Parliament and the people of Papua New Guinea on the timing of the LLG elections in 2017?

Mr Speaker, my last question relates, to national elections and court petitions. It has come to light that court petitions are taking some of us, a full term of Parliament to dispose the election petitions.

Mr Speaker, the court petitions give anxiety in the mind of the people and are waste of time. They sometimes take up the cases which are without merits and substance and question the process of electing leaders. When the election petitions are dismissed and the courts awards it to the respondent then in most cases, there are problems recovering the legal costs from the petitioners which in itself become a long and tedious process. Since the election petition is a serious matter questioning the integrity of the process directly affecting the incumbent leader to discharge effectively the services to people he or she represents.

The least or minimum cost for the election petition is no less than K100 000 and in most cases it goes beyond K500 000. The security bond paid by the petitioner to register to the Registrar of Courts is K5 000 for election petition by the petitioner. Election petition is a serious business and petitioners have to be confident, serious and genuine in pursuing court petitions rather than incurring unnecessary costs and wasting the time of the incumbent leaders in providing services to the people they represent.

My questions are:

(1) Is there a way for the courts to increase the security bond fee to an amount equivalent to the minimum average cost incurred to any election petition as experienced in election petitions in PNG?

(2) Is there a way for the courts to screen because most cases turn to have no merits or substance to pursue further?

06/08

(3) Since the Electoral Commission is short of funds, is there any way of increasing the nomination fees so that it can be self-sustaining to raise money for themselves. That K1000.00 is not enough. We should increase the nomination fees for election candidates.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Mr Speaker, let me say this, these decisions are the responsibility of the Electoral Commissioner. In many cases, he determines when the elections should be held or not.

Recently, there were some announcements that the LLG elections are to be held together with the National Elections but I want to inform the Parliament that the government is suggesting to the Electoral Commissioner that we delay the LLG elections by one year so that the current councillors can serve the full five-year term because they are entitled to do so.

Mr Speaker, one other thought is that because of the security and difficulties that are encountered during the conduction of the elections around the country, LLG elections are also discussed to be transferred and to be the responsibility of provincial governments and that they conduct the elections with the coordination and supervision of the Electoral Commission.

Mr Speaker that is the proposal that we are putting forward to the Electoral Commissioner and I am certain that he will consider these things quite favourably.

Mr Speaker, one other area that is being discussed, again as the good Member has suggested, is the election of the council presidents. How are they going to be voted? There are some provinces where the people vote the LLG presidents directly but there are other areas where the ward councillors vote the presidents.

We are trying to have a uniform arrangement throughout the country. We think that it is now good for the councillors to vote for their presidents. That is the suggestion that many of our colleagues in this Parliament are proposing and the government is considering that. We will also put that suggestion to the Electoral Commissioner so that we can make necessary amendments in the next Meeting of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, on court petitions, this is becoming quite a normal trend now. After the elections, quite a number of petitions seem to be lodged. Some are genuine but some are just ambitious. As a result of these, there's a lot of costs being incurred. Our legal costs are among some of the highest in the world and as a result, Members are put under undue

pressure insofar as meeting those costs are concerned. I agree that the security bond that is now being put by the petitioner is not sufficient. In many cases, even if the petition has been lost the party that loses the petition does not refund the costs that are supposed to be refunded to the person who has won the case.

So, Mr Speaker, I agree that there is a need for us to review the security bond so that serious and genuine petitions can be lodged. I know that this infringes on the basic rights of individuals but I think that on the other hand there is costs involved and no one can avoid those costs. It is only fair to the Members who have been petitioned that if they win the case, they should be reimbursed their full costs and there must be some certainty around that.

The last issue the Member raised is the costs of elections in the country. Every election, the costs are going up. It was estimated recently by the Electoral Commissioner that it will cost close to well over K500 million for this coming elections in 2017.

We have revised the costs with the Electoral Commissioner and found that we can do it for a little bit less but still it is quite a substantial amount of money, up to about K300 million.

07/08

Mr Speaker, we cannot continue to meet that from the Budget, there must be also ability of the Electoral Commission to raise some funds to meet the costs of the elections. One way we can do that is by increasing in the nomination fees, I think that K1000 for National elections is a bit too low and we can increase it. That money does not go into consolidated revenue.

Mr Speaker, it goes straight into the Electoral Commission's account, so that they can be able to assist in meeting some of the costs of the elections in the country. Likewise, there will be a review of the nominations fees for the councillors, so that the Provincial Government and Electoral Commission can be assisted in the costs of conducting elections in our country.

So Mr Speaker, yes, I confirm there is a compassion review on this issues, we will introduced necessary Amendments at the next Parliament and well try and establish this ground rules before we go to the elections in 2017.

Kumalu River

Mr BENJAMIN PHILIP – Thank you Mr Speaker, I want to direct my questions to the Prime Minister, since the Works Minister is not present and I want the Minister for Treasury and the Minister for National Planning to take note of.

First of all, I want to thank you for giving the opportunity on behalf of the people of Menyamya to raise these very important questions.

My series of questions relate to the external destructions that the river Kumalu in Bulolo Districts is causing to my people of Menyamya and Bulolo Districts.

Mr Speaker, as you are aware, the Kumalu River has buried Mumeng Station in the late 90s the Mumeng Local Level Government Council was relocated to Zenag.

The Japanese Government funded bridge over the Kumalu River was also buried in 2000, after a year of its commissioning. More than five vehicles owned by small SME operators in Menyamya and Bulolo were lost to the river since 2004 and more than 8 people have already lost their lives trying to cross the rivers. Since 2004, the Government has spent well over K50 million to consistently clear the debris on the river and road, even the various contractors engaged since 2012 to clear the debris have not been paid for their services by the government.

As I'm speaking, more than K10 million is still owed to the contractors. The by-pass road constructed up river in the last two years by HDS Constructors has cost the Government K7 million. Unfortunately, the projects is incomplete.

The Kumalu River continues to destroy the road affecting the people of Menyamya and Bulolo Districts.

Mr Speaker, my coffee farmers in Menyamya who are re-known for producing high quality coffee beans have been greatly affected. As I'm speaking now, over K50 million to K100 million worth of Coffee are sitting idle in Menyamya due to this problem and other related problems to the Lae-Bulolo-Menyamya Highway. This coffee cannot be effectively transported to Lae due to lack of transport and not enough cash to purchased coffee in the district. The Bulolo District has some of the key revenue earners for the nation including Harmony Gold, Bulolo Forest Product as well as coffee farmers and alluvial miners.

08/08

Mr Speaker, how do you intend to solve this and end this problem? More than K50 million has been spent since 2004 to remove debris and the amount will continue to

increase to over K100 million; the K10 million outstanding to various contractors since 2012, incomplete bypass worth K7 million undertaken by HDAs, loss of lives and vehicles on crossing the river and criminal activities.

(1) Can the Prime Minister assure the people of Menyamya and Bulolo District that this Government will fund the by-pass and fix the above problems in the 2017 Budget?

(2) Can the Prime Minister consider this as a very important project in the 2016 Supplementary Budget?

Mr PETER O'NEILL – I thank the Member for Menyamya for his questions. This is a long standing matter where the Kumalu River has continuously diverted its flow during heavy rain seasons and as result, a lot of communities along the river have been displaced. The Government has been continuously using local contractors to try to have temporary pass way for people to travel up and down that Bulolo Highway.

Mr Speaker, I know that the Works Department has been working on a programme to try and get a road and bridge for that section of the road.

I will get the Minister to respond to the Member in detail. I am not privy to some of the details that the Works Department has done but I am aware that there is some work continuing. There has been some suggestion that we expand the JICA-PNG Government Bridge Programme that is ongoing in the country to help fix the problem in Bulolo and the Markham River systems in Morobe Province.

Forest Permits for Wawei Guavi and Mapaka Landowners

Mr ROY BIYAMA – My questions are directed to the Minister for Forestry. You have been telling the Parliament that all Forest permits are supposed to be with the landowners but this is not the case in my district.

The permits for the two big logging companies; Mapaka TRP and Wawei Guavi are still with the developer.

Mr Minister, I did see you a couple of times and the managing director recently. The permits are owned by the developers so my question to the Minister is simple. When can my landowners have the permit come under their control?

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – I thank the honourable Member for Middle Fly for his question.

Mr Speaker, for these two projects; Wawei Guavi blocks 1, 2 and 3 is under the RH permit and Mapaka project comes under Innovation. Let me make it very clear that there are a couple of projects in the country that come under different permit names.

09/08

Under the *Timber Rights Purchase Project Act* and all the TRP Projects that have been awarded to foreign companies, unfortunately landowner companies do not come under any of the agreement in those TRP Projects unless it is a Forest Management Areas (FMA) or Forest Clearing Area (FCA) Projects then you have an LMA Agreement with both companies and landowners.

However, Mr Speaker, we have seen this problem that continues to arise not only in the Western and Gulf Province. And recently, I was asked a question by the Governor of Gulf on the same issue and so as the Governor of Northern who continues to raise this question. On the TRP Projects, we have realised that the landowners have very little say on projects unlike FCA's and FMA's and so there is a revised *Act* and it is now the property of NEC to deliberate on and approve. When this revised *Forestry Act 2015* comes through, it will take into consideration all these grievances being raised by the honourable Members on this Floor.

The two projects; Wawei Guavi and Mapaka have actually been extended for 10 years and that was done in 2012, well before my time. However, due to the many questions, letters and visits that I have got from the honourable Members and Governors, we have decided to look at it seriously and we found that there are flaws in there that needs to be corrected and based on that, there is a review on the *Act* being done already which is now before the NEC. When NEC approves then it will come to this House for approval and these issues raised will be taken into consideration under these provisions that we have brought in that Paper, the revised *Forest Act 2015*.

So, Mr Speaker, I would like to say, I am very thankful to the Member that very recently, we had discussions with the head of the department and we have now come to a conclusion to make certain that our people in the Western and Gulf Province and right throughout Papua New Guinea, the local landowners needs are taken into consideration.

However, before I finish, Mr Speaker, on TRP Projects, there is a provision in the *Act* that states that when a TRP Project expires, or before it expires a review must be done and when this review is done and on the expiry date of a TRP, the logging area returns to

the landowners and it is up the landowners to decide if the project should continue or not. And based on that it has been captured in the revised *Act* and we hope that when the revised *Act* come, it will satisfy all of us.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Landowner Shares in Timber Resource

Mr JOESPH LELANG – Thank you, Mr Speaker, my questions are also directed to the Minister for Forestry. I am very happy that there is a new *Forestry Act 2015* that the Minister is spearheading in the Forestry Sector and I just want to ask this serious of questions in relation to that.

Mr Speaker, as you know over the last forty years, the timber industry has contributed K40 billion in terms of tax to the Government and in terms of foreign exchange earnings to the country.

10/08

Yet, Mr Speaker, there is still very little to show in terms of tangible development in those timber concession areas. Most of which are very rural, remote and isolated like Kandrian Gloucester which has 16 logging operations, the largest in the country.

Mr Speaker, there are lot of timber concession regimes that are currently operating and I think the Minister has alluded to that. You have TRP, FCA, FMA LFA and all those sort of agreements that come in different forms, logging marketing agreements and all the timber species have different rates. Also the different rates paid to the Government, maybe 50 toea per cubic metre for local level government and K10 per cubic metre for provincial governments and it may be different for each species.

Mr Speaker, there are also different levies as stated by the honourable Member for Kikori regarding reforestation levies .The different levies allocated include infrastructure levies and agriculture levies. There are so many other different regimes operating in one industry and sector only.

In view of the recent trends in the mining and petroleum sector in this country right now, in giving a bigger share to our people in the mineral resource and petroleum sector, logging in PNG is largely an extractive industry resulting in the export of round logs.

My questions to the Minister are,

(1) Are there any plans to review these benefit packages for the landowners of the resource and the companies and the State?

(2) Are there plans to increase landowner shares in the timber resource?

(3) Within the new policy and law, will the land owner packages be standardised?

(4) Are there any plans to enable landowners to also have equity in these timber operations that are currently taking place in these timber concession areas?

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, I also would like to take this opportunity to thank the learned Member for his series of questions.

Yes, I do agree, in the recent past, especially in the last two days, there was a lot of debate being raised here in this Floor of Parliament with regards to Bougainville, OK Tedi Mine and the LNG Project. But let me remind this honourable Parliament that we should be very thankful to the logging industry in this country and the logging resource owners who have contributed immensely to the development of this country.

Let me put it this way, whilst we are still waiting for the benefits of other resources to come back to this country, look at forestry, in the last 40 years, it has contributed over K45 billion in terms of revenue for this country. So, when I first took office, I felt in my heart that we owe a lot to the forest resource owners in this country.

11/08

And so, this *Act* 2015, the revised *Act* that will come in – I have already said this but let me reiterate and let me repeat what I have said, that some of these lost benefits to the landowners will be realised in this revised *Act*.

We, also, through the discussions that I have had with the Open Members from these areas and the Governors, we realised that – and I would like to say this again, that there is too much misuse of landowner money. There is too much misuse of money that is supposed to go back to the electorate and that is why when I first took office, we made certain that royalties are there for the landowners; it must go to the landowners.

If there is log export development levy sitting in trust accounts, that must go because in the past, there have been too much misuse of log export development levy.

(Mr Garry Juffa interjecting)

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – You know it yourself.

(Mr Garry Juffa interjecting)

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – At the moment, you don't have the Chair so just –

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Order! Order! Minister, answer the question.

(Mr Garry Juffa interjecting)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Minister continue.

(Mr Garry Juffa interjecting)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Order!

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – I got the Chair – *yu stap isi*.

(Mr Garry Juffa interjecting)

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – Mr Deputy Speaker, do not worry the Member.

(Mr Garry Juffa interjecting)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Minister, continue.

(Mr Garry Juffa interjecting)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Governor for Northern, I caution you. Minister, continue to answer the question.

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – When I first took office I made certain that the LEDOs that are in trust were paid out to the districts and we have done that twice already consecutively without failure.

Mr Garry Juffa – It is illegal!

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – It is not illegal because we had done it through an Act of Parliament and there is a guideline in place for that. So, he has to be thankful that, even Oro got their LEDOs.

(Government Members applauding)

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – They are just Open Members be calm.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Continue Minister.

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – For too long, our landowners' royalties have not been paid. Let me tell this Honourable Parliament that we are paying royalties out. And, at the moment as I speak, we have more than K30 million sitting in the trust accounts ready to be paid out to the landowners. I will get down to the districts and provinces to make certain that the money goes to the rightful people and not to Port Moresby based landowner chairmen and companies.

(Members applauding)

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – Mr Deputy Speaker, reforestation levies are sitting with the department and we have already started nurseries right throughout the country.

We have gone to the New Guinea Islands and done the reviews there already. We have completed the Highlands Region. We have completed the Southern Region and the last region that we are yet to do is Momase. When we complete that, we will get into getting all the nurseries done. And, I would like to encourage the Governors who want trees to be planted in their provinces and districts, please, come and see us and work with

us. Give us some of your money because we need your money in the provinces and districts so we plant more trees.

Agriculture levies does not come under Forestry. It comes under its own respective department and they take charge of that.

Mr Deputy Speaker, let me, whilst I have the Chair, let me say this, for too long we have misrepresented our people, especially the landowners.

Mr Garry Juffa – Point of Order! If he has answered the question could he please sit down so other people may ask questions?

Thank you.

Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA – Mr Deputy Speaker, I think I have one more minute so, let me stay for one minute and then my learned brother can finish.

Let me put it this way, Mr Deputy Speaker, for too long leaders on this Floor of Parliament keep spoiling the Department of Forest and say very bad things about the department. There may be truth in them but there are no facts. They have to place it on my table and say, there is illegal logging in this area. They have never done it because I have received any in writing to me. That is why with these types of questions now, we have not already captured those in the *Forest Act 2015*, revised *Act* and when it comes out, I can assure you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and this honourable Parliament that people like my good Governor will be happy that we have got these provisions in the revised *Act 2015*.

Thank you.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Question proposed –

That the grievances be noted.

12/08

Mid-Year Economic and Financial Outcome Report

Mr DON POLYE (Kandep) – Thank you Deputy Speaker, I would like to address the Floor with three main issues which we understand is the position of Government.

The first point that we agreed by is the Government's continuous ear-bashing and verbal assault on the Opposition has to the fact, statistics or the data or the information that we present, in terms of our position in policy issues.

I would like to make it clear on record Mr Deputy Speaker, that every time the Opposition present a paper, we present articulated detailed facts and truth in all of them. For instance, in the early part of 2015, we launched the Alternative Government policies on the Floor of Parliament. It is in the *Hansard* and we have facts and details in them. I would like to ask the Prime Minister to read them and understand them and debate on the facts that we presented.

The second policy matter that we have addressed is the Mid-Year Economic and Financial Outcome Report.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Mid-Year Economic and Financial Outcome Report was supposed to be handed down by the Government in June, before July by Law. What has happened is that the Government has not handed down the Mid-Year Economic and Financial Outcome Report of the country yet.

So what the Opposition has done is that, we have taken the step as we see best the country's economy situation and we have addressed it by way of a statement.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I was aggrieved when I heard the Prime Minister say that we have no facts to support or substantiate that argument. He did bring in one of the bulletin or quarterly reports from the bank to show and I was observing very carefully if the Prime Minister could rebate a track on a detail or figure that I have presented. None of that, all he referred to was a bulletin report.

Yet, I got those facts from the bulletin report. So it is on the record to say on behalf of the Opposition, the Opposition has been presenting facts, and the Government must do its job.

The Government has failed the Law and the *Act* in not presenting to the country a Mid-Year Economic and Financial Outcome Report as yet as and when it was required in June before July.

Gas Policy

The next thing we presented Mr Deputy Speaker, the gas policy yesterday. The gas policy is one of the sensitive and delicate policies in this country. It demands the respect and quality debate and discussions of the issue. It does not matter whether it is presented

by the Government or the Opposition. I am aggrieved by the fact that when it is presented and we want to debate it, it is gagged or the debate is stopped.

Mr James Marape – Point of Order! The Opposition Leader is misleading here. There were adequate debates yesterday and the fact that we ran out of time yesterday, Parliament was heading towards 5 o'clock, Mr Deputy Speaker, Parliament do not feed me at 5 o'clock so I would like you to caution the Opposition Leader for misleading Parliament that we were gagging debate yesterday.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Your point of Order is in order.

Mr DON POLYE – I have made a point. Not only yesterday, there are other instances where gagging has become a common culture in this House.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the other issue that we presented is the gas policy. They are fundamental issues and I would like to advise the Members of this honourable House to affluent themselves on the issues of gas. There is gas in all areas of this country and I think we need to get more information and study it intellectually, more scientifically and politically. It is important that such papers must be debated.

When I hear the Government to move for question be put, the debate is cut short and does not go down well with the people of this nation who own the resources. I can prove that the Opposition has been sustaining facts but the Government has failed. The Government has no gas policy.

13/08

So, I stand on record to prove that the Opposition has been sustaining facts, the Government has failed. The Government has no gas policy, all you are doing is, you are running on the *Acts* and you are operationalising the PNG LNG project which the Somare Government brought in when National Alliance was in power. The People's National Congress has to come up with a policy of its own which the Government has yet to do to date.

Mr Speaker, let me also continue on with this debate with the uses and statistics of the gross national product or the national content. We'll have to hear from the Minister for Commerce and Industry to rebut our point.

We are saying that we do not have a national content policy. If there is, we are saying that we do not have any statistics to prove how many businesses, when you are talking about the GDP growing, or the size of the GDP being so massive at this stage, we want to know what segment of that is owned by Papua New Guineans and it is the responsibility of the Executive Government to come out and tell us how many men are millionaires are Papua New Guinean men? How many women are billionaires in Papua New Guinean women? We want to know those facts.

When we argue that you need to present statistics and details about what you are administering; these are the facts that we are talking about. My team and I stood on the court and presented details and facts for the Government to rebut but the Government has not rebutted fruitfully. The answers that we've been getting are all substandard.

My second grievance is this. There is a major concern on the weakness of institutions in place. We are yet to build in capacity at institutions. There is a problem there. Let me give you a glaring example to clarify the issue I am talking about, Mr Speaker.

Yesterday we talked about the gas and I heard the Prime Minister answered and I couldn't believe it. Even at this 21st Century, when he said, because Total is going to be the operator, ExxonMobil will not be the operator, therefore there is no monopoly and there is competition.

I can't understand in such an arrangement there is competition and no monopoly. Definitely, this will lead to monopoly. Even if one or two control the industry that is a monopoly. We'll have to diversify the ownership and operation. We'll have to see competition in this sector.

Why do we continue to allow one or two operators to own a major industry in developing the gas or petroleum sector?

Let's look at another point that the Government raised. The Government believes that because it is technically and economically not possible they would like to get the plant away from Gulf Province, closer to where the gas field is, down to where the current plants are and I am saying, what? What a statement? Are we still living at the time when we are still independent? Some 20 years ago?

We keep on saying, the past Prime Ministers and governments never did it and we are trying to fix the problems. What a crap, Mr Speaker. We are supposed to learn from

them and design the future now, at this present time rather than blaming, blaming and blaming.

Let's put it this way. The Somare Government and the National Alliance, when we brought in the first LNG Project, was a good thing we have done. If there is some failures there, it is your responsibility now as Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill and your Government to fix and improvise on those to bring in further success.

But, what you are saying now is that it is technically not possible impossible in terms of engineering and economically you cannot do it. But I am saying that is not true. Because there is something called cost-benefit analysis, build up the Petroleum and Energy Department, build up other relevant institutions of this country and do a cost-benefit analysis and you will see. And it didn't say you stand on your own two legs and say, look, that's my call, and it is going to be less costly than what the operators say.

The operator will want to serve it's interest and increases it's cost to maximise its profitability against our interest. Now, when we are smart and we have got our own cost-benefit analysis done by our own institutions, we can stand on that and there is going to be a strong argument against the operator's argument. At the moment, we have none, we haven't built it even at this 21st Century.

We have a gas industry, a petroleum industry and an extractive industry which is so large and it is challenging us to manage it competitively and yet, we have not built our capacity to do a cost-benefit analysis. So, what we are doing is, we are relying on what the operators, ExxonMobil or Total is telling us and say. Oh halleluia, praise God, that is the right way.

14/08

I am saying, no! I'm not going to say Halleluia praise God on this. I'm going to device my own strategies and say this is the cost benefit analysis that Papua New Guineans have done for petroleum and energy. My plan now, Mr Operators is that, you build the plant in Gulf Province and not in some other places you can minimise your cost and maximise my benefit.

If they don't want to operate on the fields, please look at the *Constitution*. It says you do it for the conservations of the future generations. If they want to go, let them go. The demand of gas will be still be there for 100 years down the line and the global

demands for gas will be still there, we must maximum our benefits, we should change now.

Mr Deputy Speaker, finally let me just say, on the PNG LNG project that I hear, it is either the Prime Minister or me; one of us will be receiving a gold medal for lying to the people of this country. One of us, either me or the Prime Minister will be worthy of receiving a gold medal for lying and deceiving the people of this nation. My record shows that from the PNG LNG sale and pouring into the to the NPCP and going to an account in Singapore, and Prime Minister lied yesterday.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER-Opposition Leader, your time is up.

Buai Ban

Mr PETER ISOAIMO (Kairuku-Hiri) – I would like to debate on buai ban issue affecting my people and my elected Members representing the people of Papua New Guinea. We have come to a time our nation is faced with a lot of giants of the modern world in all aspects of life.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we are faced with serious issues of national interests and challenges by the gloomy global trend. We must turn and look back at the root of our being here on this Floor of Parliament. The interest of our constituencies is paramount and we are here to push further the development and enrichment of our people to ensure a better life for every individuals within the short span of time on this planet earth. I believe in this line; what we do today, goes into eternity. The choices we make today will affect the future. The decisions we make on the Floor of Parliament, the laws that we make, the people we empower to make substitute laws within their political jurisdiction is an important and vital role that we, as elected legislatures play.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I stand here today as a father of children who are hungry and begging for bread and are crying. I stand here today to raise this issue which may seem absurd to most elected Members on the Floor of Parliament today. I stand here as a leader of my people regardless of the view of other elected leaders.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my people are suffering because of the subsidiary legislation passed by National Capital Districts Commission Board. We are calling it the ‘buai ban’ law or *Buai Control Act* which I am sure most of you are aware. It has claimed a lot of lives so far and injured so many of my people involved in the informal sector. I speak not

only for my people, but also for most of the fathers, mothers and unemployed citizens of this country who cannot make a proper living because of lack of opportunities.

The lack of opportunity is the direct result of poor choices we have made as the leaders, both past and present which has resulted in this predicament that we are faced with. We only deny more opportunities when we make further laws like this. We should regulate resolutions to the circumstances.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as a national leader, I speak with no fear or favour to those who criticise the filth betel nuts create in Port Moresby city. I can too can proudly admit that I'm a habitual chewer. I speak because of the livelihood of most of the people engaged in the informal sector. The lives of the people from other provinces, who also grow betel nut and almost 80 percent of our people are affected negatively. People can say it is a filthy habit and that it is bad but this is the way our people prefer to be. We are leaders because we are conditioned to think differently, we were conceived with the special purpose to effect the changes.

15/08

Mr Deputy Speaker, we can change the mindset of our people. It is not the filth and the rubbish that is the problem. We can change the mindset by addressing the needs. You cannot develop your child by putting a twisties ban in his or her face when he wants twisties. You only tell them that it is bad and you find ways to convince them that and give them something else. The child then can learn the bad and good habits and make a choice in the future.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in a nutshell, my proposal is that let us allocate a place for them. They all have rights under the *Constitution*. If we are to ban betel nut then we should also ban alcohol which has caused a lot of fear in our society as well. SP Brewery is paying educated employees and tax to the government and that alone does not give us the right to stop our people from selling their betel nut. Alcohol is the worst eyesore and so is marijuana which are killing the young population. They cause more problem and filth in the city. A drunken human being sleeping in the streets is a much filthier sight than a plastic containing rubbish in it. I think we need to change the approach here.

Mr Deputy Speaker, 85 percent of NCD Police Reservist personnel have betel nut stuffed in their mouths while enforcing the ban while the wife is selling betel nut at home. While enforcing the ban, they go around in NCD Police vehicles and at times use private

vehicles to enforce the ban. This is a fact and I am sure the whole nation will agree with me on that. Apart from the good ones and with respect to them, we have a hand full of hypocrites created by this law to subdue people's rights.

Mr Deputy Speaker, with due respect to the honourable Governor of NCD, honourable Powes Parkop for his relentless effort to beautify the city, I personally commend him and appreciate the work he is doing in the nation's capital. The city has beautified in face value and in spirit. Under the leadership of Prime Minister honourable Peter O'Neill, the country has turned its wheels towards positive development regardless of negativities surrounding it.

Honourable Powes Parkop under the Government of honourable Peter O'Neill has captured the positive spirit of development, cleanliness, law and order, tidiness, respect for one another and have shown the seeds for development to all leaders and paved the way for us to move forward. As the rightful Governor of the nation's capital, he is really leading the way for the capital city and the nation.

While I support and admire his work, I am also reminded of what I am faced with at home for my electorate and reminded of the unfortunate people trying to make ends meet. Whilst it is true that they may be called 'buai sellers' and bighead lain', they are our people. I understand the efforts of the NCD Reserve Police Unit or NCDC employees and sub-contractors efforts to clamp down on chewing and selling of betel nut in public places but I tend to ask myself, is there a way around all of this so we can satisfy the needs of our people whilst maintaining the statuesque of the city's cleanliness?

Classifying this people into different groups really bring us to the point that there is a different perception towards betel nut by every individual. The *Constitution* guarantees every individual in this country rights that we can never temper with unless amended by this Parliament.

16/08

We cannot serve one side of the city's interest by chasing the other side around like animals, bashing and treating them like animals or common criminals and depriving them of their little opportunity for them to make a living for themselves and keeping them intimidated while harassing, robbing them and assaulting them physically and verbally.

Mind you, Mr Deputy Speaker and my fellow Members of Parliament, an intimidated population living in fear is the dangerous population, a time boom that is ready

to blow up sooner or later. Coupling with frustrations and suffering, we might end up with thieves and murders increasing. I am just figuratively speaking, Mr Deputy Speaking, but my point is clear.

I ask these to the honourable Governor and the Government of the day, ‘What about my people and their only coffee tree, their LNG, their cocoa, their gold etc.? We have none of the above but we have the green gold, our only resource that our people rely upon. I am a result of that betel-nut tree because it is those people that voted me to come to this Parliament. Our lives are customary and spiritually attached to these betel-nut tree.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I know that the people of Mekeo-Kuni have filed a Supreme Court Reference against the Betel nut Ban Law in 2015 and it has been slowly progressed until now it is nearing a time when we will get a hearing date for our reference for the Court’s interpretation on the Betel nut Control Law of its constitutionality. While that is something for NCD to really think about given the number of casualties the law has created.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Member, your time has expired.

Mr PETER ISOAIMO – I ask leave of the Chair to incorporate the rest of my speech in the Hansard

Leave granted.

The rest of the speech reads as follows:

I am not too keen on receiving a bad picture drawn on me because of the effects of the ban on the look of the city. What I am concern is for my people.

I want you to give me the markets you wanted to set up which you did not. Give them to me and give the boom gates to me. I ask that you control the city streets. Give me the management, upkeep and transportation and supervision of the supply of the markets.

Please give me at least one market in the city so my peoples can come and sell their supplies. They are suffering. I as the leader undertake to control the market and its waste management. If you can do that, we can come to some amicable solution to the case also.

These are our people, the city is ours. They are yours and my constituents.

You have not given them the betel nut market that you promised, they are being robbed by every police out there, assaulted, policemen have gone into Central Province to enforce the law created. Many people have lost their lives as a consequence of this law.

The Reference is before the Supreme Court and all the evidence of the statements made above a before the court and we will get a hearing date soon.

What I ask of you on this Floor of Parliament is that;

1. Will you give the markets you promised?
2. Will you issue and issue the license permits for suppliers and sellers you promised and issued some?
3. Give them the access they need.
4. Will you at the least provide a legal and protected outlet for their supplies?

I ask that you open the boom gates (check points), stop the policemen from harassing my people and intimidating them and give them a market for them to come and sell their produce.

Too many lives have been lost; too many people have suffered and so much has been lost. Please let us find a way around it together for the interest of our people.

Social Media

Mr JOHN SIMON (Maprik) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to join in the grievance debate.

Mr Deputy Speaker, first and for most, I would like to thank the Minister for Communication for the *Cyber Crime Act*. The social media has totally destroyed this country.

I am serving my first term and I have heard from both sides of the House and sometimes also on Facebook a social media network where I have seen a lot of criticism that people have made about this Government, some of which are true but a lot is false.

I was going to ask a question to the Prime Minister but I decided not to and decided to share this during the Grievance Debate and it was on social media. When we went to Alotau, they said that this Government got K60 million, K30 million from MRDC and K30 million from Kumul Holdings to pay the Members. I commented and said that it was not true and argued with them.

A person posted on PNG Blog and said, 'Member we know you got the money'.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr JOHN SIMON – It is really bad because there are people all over the world who are reading social media and they are thinking that PNG Parliament is really corrupt, that we got paid to vote for this Parliament. We never got any money, I voted for this Government because I believe in stability and I believe in what the O'Neill-Dion Government is doing because there is a lot of projects going on in my district in Maprik.

But I didn't go there because Mr O'Neill gave me money, he never gave me any money, he never paid these Members any money to be on his side. We stood for stability and we want development to take place.

(Government Members Agreeing)

17/08

Mr JOHN SIMON – The other thing, I found out is, the PNG blog is associated with some of the Members of the Opposition, I'm sorry for saying this.

Dr Allan Marat – Point of order! Could the honourable Member make mention of those Members of the Oppositions who are responsible for his claim? Thank you.

Mr JOHN SIMON – Some of these people in charge of these blogs or social media sites are associated with the Members of the Opposition. I know that because I rang them through another network and the person who answered said he was with a Member, he mentioned the initial and the electorate. But I cannot say it here.

(Members interjecting)

Mr JOHN SIMON – We are here so do not worry. We are destroying this country my good Members of Parliament This is a young country and we are here to promote, make sure this country go a long way and not continue making irresponsible statements through social media and in this Parliament..

A lot of people who are here listen to our arguments and when they go out, they blow these things out of contexts; they think we all are corrupt.

So in this social media site, they said that I got the money and just imagine how many Papua New Guineans read that the Member for Maprik got the money.

One person that posted was using the name Michael Passingan. I don't know whether there is a person by that name but I was so upset that I went to see the Commissioner. I asked the Commissioner to have that person investigated. I am not happy because I never got any money. I am not that cheap to be bought with money.

I am here because my people of Maprik voted me, they had confidence in my leadership so they gave me the mandate to become the Member for Maprik, not to come here and to be bribed.

In fact, I saw money before I came to Parliament and I never talked about it. I am a small businessman in Maprik. I came to Parliament because I wanted my people to receive services.

I was really upset about those comments on social media and I even commented on it. I almost cursed one of the person who posted on that site but I was patient.

I want to say this, it's good to criticise people but you must also give credit where it is due. A lot of times in the social media, there are unbalanced criticisms and they don't give credit where it is due.

This Government has done a lot of good things, and they have done great. I have seen my district change and I have done a lot of things in my district using the DSIP funds which is a lot of money. The K10 million allocated is lot of money and we all received it, both sides of the House representing the 89 Districts, no one missed out and that is alot money to make changes in the districts.

I have used my DSIP funds well to see lot of things happening and I am proud that I came to this Parliament at the right time when the Government put this policy in place. It is helping the districts and we should all support this. We should give credit, we shouldn't continue to criticise unnecessarily, because it is only destroying our country.

English Competency

In terms of education, I would like to speak on that, Mr Deputy Speaker. the education level in this country has dropped really badly. I have gone through some of the university student's posts and when I saw their comments on social media, I go back and

correct their English. I said to one of them ‘son go back and fix your English’ and these are the university students. And he said, ‘sorry Member, I was in a hurry’. That’s not the point, this is public material and everyone is reading your English so go back and correct it.

I am not blaming our students in the universities but we need to really straighten the elementary school, the lower level of education. This is the first contact, a child has with education and therefore, it’s very important that we must spend more time and more money on the elementary part of the education.

18/08

Once we train a child at a very early age then the high schools, secondary schools and universities will be okay, will be better off. But because the early childhood learning, the elementary and play school part are not properly established, we are having problems with our children now.

I can refer back to my own district. There are a lot of volunteer teachers teaching at the elementary schools. They are volunteers who just completed Grade 10 and because we have two or three that cannot fit all of them. They just – the parents hand pick them and ask them to go and teach. And they are teaching at elementary schools without proper training. This is where the problem is.

So, Mr Deputy Speaker, we need to really look into our education system and fix the early childhood learning. The elementary part of it because that is very important in order to see the outcomes in universities and colleges and to have better Papua New Guineans in future. Otherwise, we will still have problems. One of the problems like I have said is the social media because our students and children today cannot analyse and think properly. That is why when they hear issues, they think that it’s the truth and they continue to go. When our children are properly taught and educated at a very early age, we will have a better educated society in our country.

Support Economic Impact Projects

Mr Deputy Speaker, before I finish on my Grievance Debate, there is an issue that I would like to raise and it is about economic sectors or about Vision 2050.

We have talked about this policy and each province should or must come up with an economic impact project. Like in our district and in our province, we have in East Sepik a lot of projects that are happening. In Wewak they are planting oil palm. Up in Yangoru-

Saussia they are talking about oil palm as well. In Ambunti-Drekikir, they are talking about oil palm.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I started talking about food security and I have started livestock farming in my district. Today, as I stand here, my officers are in Lae and with the help of Papindo the vessel, they are shipping 400 cattle and 100 pigs all the way up the Sepik River to Pagwi. And that will be the biggest shipment ever since Independence to Sepik.

I also started a project two years ago where I went and bought 100 cattle from Trukai when they were selling. From those 100 cattle, we now have 170 cattle and I also bought another 150 in Lae. So, I have a total of 400 plus cattle going to Maprik. I have already fenced more than a hundred hectares of land to put the cattle in and then I will start a piggery project. I had already got a poultry project that I worked on before I entered politics.

The only thing that I would like to ask this Government is that, most of us are not in the Cabinet to raise issues to get support. A good example is the Member for –

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Member for Maprik, your time is up.

MR JOHN SIMON –Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Renewable and Non-renewable resources

Mr WERA MORI (Chuave) – I would like to contribute to a shot debate but may start by saying that sometimes when we, as Members of Parliament when we are asking questions and when we get answers, sometimes, we appear to bark up the wrong tree.

May I put it this way? In the questions raised by the Honourable Member for Kandrian-Gloucester to the Minister for Forest, I think it was wrong to make comparisons between royalties and benefits arising out of forestry, which is also an extractive industry like oil, gas and mining.

19/09

Mr Speaker, the fundamental difference is that forestry is a renewable resource while oil, gas and mining are non-renewable resources. So the process to replace what has been taken out would be over millions of years while forestry will take only 20 years to 40

years to replace. The onus is on the operators of those projects to ensure that new trees are planted when they are cut down.

Be fair to all Landowners

Mr WERA MORI – We had a very important Bill this week to transfer the interests to Bougainville and Ok Tedi. Both arose out of environmental damages. Problems indulge to project which have been contributing to the development of this country. I thank Panguna Mine for paying for all my school fees.

Appropriation of equities and shareholding must not be misunderstood. These are concerns of projects that are already developed over many years. So it must not have a domino effect on the upcoming projects like Freda River, Yandera and Waffi Gold because we cannot use the same yardstick when we are negotiating for the upcoming projects. We must be sensitive in what we are saying.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we seem to forget, those two projects pertain the transfers of shares pertain the environmental problems. I am glad the Deputy Opposition Leader, Member for Bulolo is here. Other members of Morobe who are in this Chamber must understand that Bulolo river and subsequently the Watut river was dead for 90 years.

Since 1926 when Dick Parker walked up to Corringa Creek, mining started. That was later extended up to Eddie Creek, the people of Bihangai and Watut in the Bulolo and Huon Gulf electorates lost the entire ecosystem to Bulolo River.

When are we going to thank the people of these two electorates and give them fair compensation? Do not forget this was done even prior to Panguna coming on stream.

So we must be fair and take into account the contributions. I do not want to be seen to be speaking for the people of Bulolo but I am saying this because I have been in the industry. I know the extent of damage caused.

We have an interesting issue when new projects are rising and we see equity given to the landowners. I would like to make a particular reference to the 4.27 percent given to the people of Southern Highlands.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we have to be fair sometimes. In the past, when equities are acquired by the State which also includes the landowners, the project developer would go to the financial institutions that they arranged for their funding and take the loan on behalf of everybody including the State and the landowners. They manage and repay for it. Now we are trying to get the landowners to raise their own money but it is very expensive for

them. They have to pay for the cost of actually raising the money, sometimes this is unfair because we may end up locking up the landowners in such arrangement.

20/08

POM Police Raid Chuave

Now that I've have five minutes up on the board, I'd like to raise some issues concerning the conduct of the Police Force, especially some members of the police force.

Mr Speaker, at the outset I'd like to commend the good work that the Police Commissioner and the majority of men and women serving the Police Force are doing to maintain and uphold the rule of law in this country.

It only takes a few bad apples, a few rogue policemen and sometimes, it could be women to derail the good work that has been done and accomplished by members of the police force.

Mr Speaker, last year on the 4th of June, the Chuave District was raided by some rogue policemen from Port Moresby pursuing a complaint that was raised by someone who was wanted by the Kundiawa Police for homicide; for the loss of 10 people that got killed in a tribal fight.

And secondly, there was a complaint by the Auditor-General for millions of kina that belonged to the people of Chuave that was misappropriated. There was an ongoing investigation by the members of the National Fraud and Anti-Corruption Squad.

After a complaint was laid by the suspect who was wanted by police in Kundiawa, some rogue members of the Police Force went to Chuave and destroyed the District office and it's Treasury. All our files got lost. Complaints were raised to the Police Commissioner.

When a complaint was lodged to members of the Police Force serving in Kundiawa, they came down to Port Moresby to arrest the policemen involved in the raid they were told not to and we asked to have the matter shelved.

I am now beginning to ask, do we have two sets of laws, are members of the Police Force above the law or are they a law unto themselves. How long are we going to put up with this?

Only this week, I questioned the Prime Minister on the conduct of policemen raiding Erima settlement which led to the loss of one life and destruction of a lot of property. And we hear of police misconduct all over the country.

Mr Speaker, this is very serious. On the one hand, the Police Force, through the Commissioner, had stopped Chimbu police from arresting those rogue policemen for destroying the district treasury office and files of Chuave District which has basically derailed the investigations being carried out by the National Fraud and Anti-Corruption Squad. They have assaulted innocent bystanders, including staff of the Chuave District Treasury which are indictable crimes.

On the one hand, they stopped police from having those rogue policemen arrested and on the other hand, they are getting these policemen to go and arrest the very policemen who are merely doing their jobs to make sure that those rogue policemen were brought in to be dealt with by the rule of law.

And this is a very, very dangerous situation because very soon, we are going to drive our people to become the enemy of the State.

No one is above the law and it is about time the Police Commissioner must draw his men and women, the rank and file in order.

My goodness me.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Your time is up.

Health Effects of Chewing Betel Nut

Mr GARY JUFFA (Northern) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I wish to start on the subject of health and before I comment on that, I just want to say a few things in relation to betel nut which was raised by my colleague over there.

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There was a recent study was conducted by expert scientists into betel nut and the effect of the betel nut, also known as Areca nut on the human body and the human mind in particular. I will get copies of that study and distribute it because I think as Papua New Guineans, we need to read this and understand its effects on us.

Yes, betel nut is sacred crop or sacred product that some part of this nation indulge in but it was highly regulated. For example, in my society, children were not allow to chew betel nut, it was only chewed on certain ceremonial occasions.

This study shows that there is a particular chemical content in the nut that affects certain portions of your brain that is responsible for strategic thinking and planning. That is

very frightening. If you take into account this information, you start to understand our Public Services because a lot of our public servants spend a lot of time chewing betel nut, before they go work at 10 o'clock and during breaks. So it's an interesting observation that I think we must take note of.

Most of us here go to church and we understand and read the Bible not has often as we should and some of us even sing in choirs and that's good. In the Bible it says, your body is a sacred temple. It is a gift given to you by God and your body should be treated with respect, especially when you are a leader in Parliament, people look up to you and your children and your family members rely on you. So that body must be fit, healthy and efficient on how it goes about leading and making decisions and so forth.

It is a machine, like a vehicle or car, and you would not put sugar into your vehicle engine, you would not pour water into the fuel tank, so you shouldn't be doing the same thing to your body. Anyway, having said this, I thank you for listening attentively, you have learn something today that you would not learn otherwise.

Mr Peter Isoaimo – Point of Order! Mr Deputy Speaker, every human being on earth is unique. In this case, what I brought to this Parliament is about the little income and economics that affects my people.

If we have scientific proof or whatever, bring it on to the Floor of Parliament or publish it so we can all read it.

It is insulting to people of Kariku Hiri and Papua New Guineans. We are trying to work out a way that we can find a market and properly establish it for them so that they can come, sit properly and earn a living and pay taxes to this Government.

Betel nut may not be listed under CPI Index but of course, it controls the economy of this nation too in a little way. Mind you, currently, it's a million kina industry that we politicians are playing politics on. On the other hand, we establish road blocks and get police to stop our people and on the other hand, we are also funding our political cronies to take up land outside Port Moresby city, again in my electorate.

My Grievance Debate basically is to find a middle ground where everybody wins. It's very true that we can consider health and other things but we as a nation living today, we can go into all these things.

At the moment, the people of Kariku-Hiri are denied big agriculture projects when it is brought onto this Floor. They are left with nothing but the betel nut when even cocoa, rice and everything can grow in Kairiku-Hiri.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Governor continue.

Better Working Conditions for Nurses

Mr GARRY JUFFA – Thank you, yes. I would like to extend quickly 10 minutes if it's possible, now I have not completed my Grievance Debate.

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Let me say this, it is time for us to be innovative about it. Let us find means and ways to assist our people. It is true that they do not know about this information. Let us educate them and let us look at how we can find other means of creating wealth for them or helping them earn a living.

What I am saying is that this crop is not good for our wellbeing. It reduces your life as well. It causes cancer and these are the things that I am talking about. Let us not kill our people. Let us find other ways. Afghanistan and a number of other countries who are suffering were relying very heavily on the production of opium poppies but the destruction it caused forced them to innovative and look at other options. We too must do the same.

I wish to talk about an issue that is very dire and is now confronting the country. Most recently, the PNG Nurses Association met and they decided that they would go on a strike and they gave a deadline. They met on Wednesday 17 August 2016 and that deadline lapses on 1st of September 2016. Nurses make up 90 per cent of our health workforce. They are in most of the rural areas and our people rely heavily on them. They are the unsung heroes of this nation working under very difficult conditions while trying to make sure that our people are receiving the health services that they deserve.

However, they are one of the most over-looked public servants in this country in terms of how we remunerate their benefits. It is a dangerous job. Most of the nurses are females and travelling to and from work at extra ordinary hours. At times, they get attacked, raped and even murdered but they continue to perform in silence. But if you look at their salaries and benefits and if you look at how we treat these very important people in our society. I am sure each and every one of us should be ashamed.

Most of us here were delivered by nurses. As children when we went to schools and fell ill, it were the nurses that nursed us back to health. They were there to ensure that we became better and healthy. We received the treatment and care that we deserved and they did it at a great costs to themselves, their families and at their own health.

Many a times, the Nurses Association had to fight, plead, and beg the government for recognition so that their small meagre salary can be improved and that they can be given a decent housing allowance. They are getting up to K12 a fortnight like most public servants but the reality is, what can you rent for K12 a fortnight?

The Department of Health and Department of Personnel Management and of which their Ministers are not in the Chamber right now, signed an agreement with the Nurses Association who represent all the nurses in the country for an award to be granted effective as of 3rd of December to 1st January, 2016. It should have been signed, sealed and gazetted legally binding for the government to honour but never fulfilled in regard to the terms and conditions of employment. It may give them some relief so that they may be able to go and perform their duties to help our people. Now they are at this stage where just to be heard, they have to step off work. The nursing services represent 90 percent of health workers.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Governor, your time is up!

23/08

Asylum Centre

Mr CHARLIE BENJAMIN (Manus) – Thankyou Mr Speaker for recognising the people of Manus. A couple of days ago, the Australian Immigrations Minister met with our Prime Minister and announced that the asylum seekers camp in Manus will be shut and this is also in line with the Supreme Court Decision. When the asylum seekers centre was proposed, Manus Province volunteered to offer the site. At that time, it was agreed that the asylum seekers will be processed and those that are genuine will then be sent to Australia or another country whilst those who were not genuine will be sent back to their country. However, for some reasons, it was then decided between PNG and Australia that those asylum seekers once processed will remain in Papua New Guinea as citizens. I believe this decision is not right, even if it was brought to Parliament by the NEC, many of us would have disagreed.

I want to raise a point and that is, when we accepted that decision of setting up the Asylum Seekers centre in Manus, we are still waiting for the agreed package for Manus Province which was part of that arrangement. Now that it has been announced that the centre will be shut down, Manus is yet to receive its end of the deal. When will that happen?

We blame the Minister for Immigrations and his officers for playing politics without even discussing these vital issue. Now that they are trying to leave, Manus is still waiting for its package. The Government of Papua New Guinea has gone silent on this issue all of a sudden. It is now the responsibility of the Government of Papua New Guinea. I can recall the Prime Minister making some commitments in Manus regarding this arrangement when the Asylum Seekers centre was proposed. The Prime Minister made a commitment of K20 million, and I thought this was going to come from the Government of PNG, instead, this money was taken from Manus special support grant, the monies earmarked for Manus.

My point is, now that Australians are shutting down the asylum seekers camp, what will happen to us? When Australia came with this problem of asylum seekers, we assisted them, Australians said it was a regional problem, but it was Australia's problem because the asylum seekers wanted to go directly to Australia. We assisted them so they should do likewise. Since when PNG and Nauru began assisting the Australians, the rate of Asylum seekers travelling to Australia has reduced greatly.

Whilst I agree that Manus has received some assistance through this arrangement, this was only received after constant struggles and persistent reminders. I expected the Government of Papua New Guinea to deal with Australia on our behalf to clearly outline the type of benefits that Manus would receive each year so we would know exactly what to receive rather than Manus constantly fighting every time for Australia to keep its part of the deal.

To add on, the level of assistance we gave to Australia is immense compared to the level of support they returned to PNG and Manus. We should not consider it equal because it was not.

It is time Australia realise this and PNG too that Australia is now trying to leave this problem to PNG to sort out but PNG should make a decision that the asylum seekers should all go back to Australia. The generation of today shall blame us in 20 years' time for making a wrong decision in allowing these asylum seekers to enter our country when

they face problems in the future. These asylum seekers never intend to come to PNG at the first place.

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They blame us for making the wrong decision in allowing these asylum seekers to come to our country which was not their intended destination in the first place and we are likely to have problems in our streets some 20 years down the line. I want to acknowledge the Government for the recent decision in ensuring that landowners receive more benefits from their resources especially in the mining sector.

I can see that the provincial government is receiving its share but the real resource owners have not been receiving what they truly deserve. If a similar situation at the Bougainville mine were to take place in some of our mining areas that would only be right because the landowners are only trying to protect their interest to make sure the investment works well in benefitting all. Whilst our law states that anything under six feet belongs to the State, this must be changed because we own all these resources.

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Governor your time is up.

Motion – That the Grievances be noted – agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 1.00.p.m..