

FOURTH DAY

Friday 27 January 2017

DRAFT HANSARD

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FOURTH DAY

Friday 27 January 2017

The Deputy Speaker (**Mr John Simon**) took the Chair at 10 a.m..

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

Sitting suspended.

Mr Deputy Speaker again took the Chair at 10.50 a.m., and invited the Member for Chuave, **Honourable Wera Mori**, to say Prayers:

‘Our Father, we come before you this morning and thank you for this great country that you have given us. Thank you for the Government, the Opposition and all our people. Thank you for the leaders that your people have elected to represent them in Parliament and thank you for your countless blessings.

O’ God, our Lord and our master and creator we come before you this morning and seek your wisdom, your understanding, your wisdom and your leadership. Help us to lead your people in the way that you wanted us to lead.

Lord we come before you and thank you for the many challenges but we note in our hearts that we are assured by you that in every situation you will always be there for us. You will always find an answer for our problems. Amen.’

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NOMINATION AND ELECTION – STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Honourable Members, before we continue with the business of the day, I would like to take this time to say thank you to the Members of Parliament, the Government including the Opposition for the confidence in my nomination and election as the Deputy Speaker of the National Parliament. I shall do my best to take care of the House. I shall provide the leadership where it is needed. Thank you.

QUESTIONS

Higaturu Oil Palm Tax Credit Scheme Status

Mr DAVID ARORE – My questions are directed to the Minister for National Planning.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Higaturu Oil Palm has been in existence even before the provincial government system came into existence in Oro Province. Over the years I understand that it has been benefiting from the Tax Credit Scheme given by this Government.

As far as we are concerned the people of Oro Province do not benefit from Higaturu Oil Palm in any way. Even the 20 percent share equity is being kept by the National Government and shared around Papua New Guinea. The people of Oro including the provincial government and the districts do not directly benefit from this oil palm project.

My questions are:

(1) Are you aware that Higaturu Oil Palm does use the Tax Credit Scheme in the province to fix and maintain the roads system in the province?

02/04

(2) If it does, how transparent is the Tax Credit Scheme operating in the province? Because as far as we are concerned the province and the Department of Works do not know how they operate in the province and what type of roads they fix in the province, so if it is true that they are using the Tax Credit Scheme in the province can you make it transparent so that the people of Oro Province especially, Sohe and Ijivitari which our road programs are captured in that Tax Credit Scheme.

Up to today we have got nothing to do with how Higaturu Oil Palm provides contracts under the Tax Credit Scheme. I have checked with IPA and they are operating as Higaturu Oil Palm but there is no registration in IPA.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr CHARLES ABEL – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and thank you to the good Member for Ijivitari, Honourable David Arore, for that questions in relation to Higaturu Oil Palm, the Tax Credit Scheme and the Application of Tax Credit Scheme funding in Oro Province.

Mr Deputy Speaker, from the outset, the Tax Credit Scheme is an innovation or a mechanism that is available under the *Income Tax Act* to certain qualifying companies that have applied to the Government. The Government is attempting to use this mechanism particularly in areas throughout the country where there is a lack of capacity like some of the resource project areas in terms of mineral and resource projects but also in agriculture areas like Oro Province.

Perhaps the Government doesn't have suitable capacity and it is a very important innovation that the Government has been using to enable those qualifying companies to make qualifying expenditure in terms of infrastructure and other service delivery projects that then are able to use that qualifying expenditure to then apply a tax credit hence the taxable income.

One thing people get mixed up about the Tax Credit Funding is that it is a pull off funding that the Government has been appropriated for and is available for use.

In fact, now it's a credit that the company has to first spend its own money on qualified expenditure which they have cleared through National Planning under the *Income Tax Act*, they are then in future applied that credit against taxable income.

Certainly, New Britain Palm Oil the parent of Higaturu Oil Palm is one such qualifying company and throughout some of our oil palm provinces they have been using Tax Credit Scheme to do in particular the maintenance of oil palm feeder roads and I believe this is the case in Oro Province.

But, Mr Deputy Speaker, there is a quite a clear processes for this Tax Credit Scheme to happen in particular there is a consultative process that must happen on the ground within the province which involves the company and equally important is the Provincial Government. They are meant to sit and be joined applicants to come through to National Planning in terms of those qualifying projects but then once National Planning is cleared through that consultative process it goes back to the company to take care of the procurement but in the procurement of those services there must be also be the involvement of all the relevant authorities on the ground, particularly the Provincial Works Department so that they well and truly ensure compliance with procurement procedures at that level.

I know that Tax Credit Scheme has been applied down in Oro Province and one thing that I will ensure and continue to try and do so is that the monitory side will also have to take place so that this very clear procedures are adhered to and not only that, the relevant projects

that have been applied for have been successfully implemented so that the company can subsequently apply those tax credits.

I will take up the question from the Member and I will look into the particular projects within Oro Province and the projects that compliance there.

But, I state here quite clearly to this Parliament and to all the participants in the Income Credit Scheme that there must be a consultation process, it is not for the company to unilaterally select its own projects and perhaps apply the funding into infrastructure that the company more directly benefits back but it is meant to supply goods, services and infrastructure and so on that benefits our people consultative in manner such that the relevant authorities particularly the Provincial Government. And now that we got DDA's, DDA's they should also have some representation in that process so that they well and truly know and have participation in those selection of those projects which are very important.

So, Mr Deputy Speaker, that is my simple response and I will look into Oro Province how that funding is applied and I will ensure that planning is not allowing projects to go through unless there has been that full consultation.

Thank you.

03/04

Gardasil Vaccine

Mr ELIAS KAPAVORE – Thankyou Mr Deputy Speaker. My question is directed to the Prime Minister. Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek leave of Parliament to give brief background on the questions.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Go ahead.

Mr ELIAS KAPAVORE – Mr Deputy Speaker, the Post-Courier article on January 23 ran a story about the arrival of Gardasil vaccines in Papua New Guinea. Gardasil is a cervical cancer vaccine administered to young girls before puberty or before encountering any sexual activity and can prevent the human papilloma virus which causes cervical cancer.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the PNG Cancer Foundation estimates, up to 1500 women die every year as a result of cervical cancer. Making it the leading cause of cancer related deaths among our women folks in the country. The Post-Courier stated that this will be a pilot project coordinated by the Department of Health, Boroko Rotary Club and the US Embassy

in NCD. We thank the Government of America for supporting us in this important program. The question is, why do we continue to pilot this vaccine when it is licensed and used in 25 European countries including Australia, America and New Zealand to name a few and accepted by the global advisory committee on vaccine safety in 2015 and WHO to have attained the excellent safety profile.

We had a similar trial in 2012 in New Ireland Province worth US\$7million of donated Gardasil vaccines that was considered a failure according to the report by my Secretariat. While we continue to trial some women, how many others are dying of cervical cancer in the country? Given the current dilemma in cancer situation treatment at Angau General Hospital, the Government should focus on prevention rather than trying to curb the socio-economic burden of cervical cancer in our country.

My questions are,

(1) Can the Government take ownership by allocating funds for Gardasil vaccination program in partnership with the stake holders like the Boroko Rotary Club and the US Embassy?

(2) Can there be a policy directive by the department of Health to include Gardasil vaccination compulsory as part of our national immunisation program the country?

So that we make this vaccine available to all the girls in the country and not only selected few in NCD.

(3) Can there be directives given to the Department of Health to come up with immediate and long term measures to address cancer related issues in the country?

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as the Deputy Speaker of this Parliament. I thank the Member for Pomio for his question.

Mr Speaker, this is a very important question because cervical cancer is a major issue for our women population in the country especially young girls.

Mr Speaker, I am aware of the program that the Member for Pomio is alluding to because in 2012, I had to intervene because our health authorities did not allow these vaccines to be rolled out in West New Britain province by the program promoters who came in from overseas to help us.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I had to give directions for this program to be carried out because I thought that it was important that our young girls have an opportunity to have access to this medicine that will prevent them from getting cervical cancer in the future.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am aware that now there is medicine and there are programs available, I am not aware of the details of the one that he is proposing to me today about Health department not allowing those vaccines that have been approved by the World Health Organization to be delivered to our community and health centres throughout the country so that our women population can have access to it.

Mr Deputy Speaker, sometimes, our health authorities and officers need to be more proactive rather than being obstructive .I will direct the Secretary for Health through the Minister to distribute this vaccine throughout the country, if this particular vaccine is approved by the WHO as the Member is alluding to.

Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker.

04/04

Supplementary Questions

Urgent need for Oncologist – Angau Hospital

Ms LOUJAYA KOUZA – Mr Deputy Speaker, I direct my Supplementary Question to the Prime Minister because the Minister for Health is not available.

(1) Is the Prime Minister aware that the head of the Oncology section at Angau General Hospital resigned on 5 September 2016, and that there is a vacancy there?

We have a long queue of cancer patients from the districts and the province waiting for treatment. The former Oncologist, Dr John Niblet is still awaiting his payout because his contract has expired and we need immediate attention to that.

(2) Can the Prime Minister inform us through this Parliament whether we will be able to have an Oncologist either a new one or renew the contract of the existing one so that we can have these patients attended to?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – I think you should reserve your question for the Minister for Health to respond to them later.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Mr Deputy Speaker, it is okay with me. I can respond to her questions.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank the Member for Lae for her questions. I am aware of the circumstances that led to the non-renewal of the contract for the doctor that was in Angau and of course through the doctor's families who made representation to my office about their predicament and of course their contractual payouts that they are seeking. I have passed that onto the officials to deal with it as quickly as possible and I am also aware that the new doctor that was to replace Dr Niblet was in the country for few months and decided to resign and leave probably because of personal issues.

But I will seek the interventions of the Health Department very quickly and that if they are unable to get a new person to fill the vacancy, they should immediately negotiate to try and re-engage Dr Niblet at the hospital.

Dubious Land Purchase

Mr KEN FAIRWEATHER – Mr Deputy Speaker, I direct my question to the Prime Minister. I raise this question to the Prime Minister because he is the Trustee of Kumul Consolidated Holdings.

Yesterday, the Minister for Defence couldn't answer the question raised by the Member for Lae in relation to Kumul Consolidated Holdings purchasing a land for the Defence from someone who had a clear land title and that land is in the Gabadi area in Central Province.

Mr Prime Minister, is this the company that PNG Loop and PNG Blog have reported? The company mentioned was registered as an Estate company and the postal address is Section 30, Lot 6, Granville, Post Office Box 556, Port Moresby. The company was officially registered on 2 May 2014.

Mr Prime Minister, the company was paid K46.6 million for the land. Can you confirm this figure please? Incidentally, the name of the company is a river in Mt Hagen.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank the Member for Sumkar who is also the Deputy Leader of the Peoples Progress Party and may I take this opportunity to also congratulate him for his elevation to this position.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am aware of that particular purchase only yesterday when a question was asked to the Minister for Defence. I am aware that the NEC has made decisions

to relocate Murray Barracks and Taurama Barracks many NEC decisions ago but I am not aware of the details of the implementation of that particular decision.

But this particular matter of the State-owned Enterprise, Kumul Consolidated Holdings is the responsibility of the Minister for State-owned Enterprises so through the Chair, I want to ask the Minister to give further clarifications of this particular issue.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – I think we should ask the Minister to make clarification on this.

05/04

Mr WILLIAM DUMA – Thank you, Deputy Speaker and I also thank the Prime Minister for giving me this opportunity to answer the questions raised by the Member for Sumkar. The Honourable Member has deliberately directed the questions to the Prime Minister knowing very well that I am the Minister responsible so it just speaks volumes about the man himself.

This process started in 2012 before I became the Minister responsible for Kumul Consolidated Holdings. For the benefit of the Members, Prime Minister is a trustee shareholder for Kumul Petroleum Holdings and Kumul Mineral Holdings and not Kumul Consolidated Holdings. That is under a separate structure based upon laws which you all passed, not me. The Prime Minister is not the trustee of Kumul Consolidated Holdings, he is the trustee of two other companies.

Some people have tried to distort the facts about the process of acquiring the land. At this time of the year when we are all going to run for election, those running against me have conveniently appeared on face book.

The fact is that all this started before I became responsible for Kumul Consolidated Holdings. It was the decision of this Government to relocate all our military installations elsewhere. The Minister for Defence and his department were assigned to implement the NEC decisions and to look for suitable locations. I am aware that at one stage the Minister for Justice and Attorney General was asked to assist the Minister for Defence. We took them to a location and they had a look at it.

There were other instances where the Defence Force officers started looking for suitable locations and I am aware that they are settling for a location in Kairuku. They were

interested in three pieces of land so they requested the Department of Lands to help them acquire those land.

Mr Deputy Speaker, it was not Kumul Consolidated Holdings who went and acquired those blocks of land. We have an entity of the State who compulsory acquires state lease for state purposes, particularly for military purpose. In this case the land in question was acquired by the Department of Lands for the State from the company who owned that state lease based on evaluation carried out by the Valuer General himself.

I must stress that all these happened before I become the Minister responsible for KCH. Mr Speaker, when this was happening there was the issue of relocating the naval base at the HMS PNG Basilisk at the wharf. At that time the Government made a decision to relocate the wharf used by Ports Corporation of PNG as well as the naval base and through the government that arrangement Motukea facilities was acquired from Curtain Brothers based on evaluation done by professional valuer and approved by Cabinet. As part of the relocation program, the Defence Force was asked to relocate quickly. As Minister responsible for Ports Corporation I am aware that there was a letter written by the Managing Director of the Ports Corporation to the Commander of the Defence Force requesting the Defence Force to relocate that naval base away from the precincts of the Fairfax Harbour because of congestion and to allow only commercial shipping in the Fairfax Harbour and that was what happened.

So we have the three entities of the government; the Defence Force, the Department of Lands and KCH all combining to give effect to the decisions of the Executive Government. They were directly relocated and this is directly what they did. Nothing is free in this country.

So the Department of Lands acquired land from other people or other companies. So the innuendo was raised against me and the good Member should check that before making his statement in Parliament. I am not like him.

06/04

Mr Ken Fairweather – Point Of Order! I asked the question, was the company paid K46.6 million? We all know the history of the thing. And I actually doubt if one banana boat could fit in down there, because that's not a good place for ships. Could you just tell, was K46.6 million paid to the company that held the title?

Mr WILLIAM DUMA –I doubt that the Member actually physically visited the site; if he did he would change his opinion. He can have his views but the fact is this; you have a

situation where the Defence Force are required by this Government to relocate. And based on a valuation done for that wharf for K50 million and the Defence Force were unwilling to relocate; provided they were given value for that. And for Kumul Consolidated Holdings to acquire that naval base and develop it as part of the much talked about Lagatoi project before my time as Minister.

KCH had to on behalf of the Defence Force and the Department of Lands pay money for that base. Nothing is free, so I personally see nothing corrupt about it, when you have a paper trail demonstrating and showing how this transactions were made. These are public documents, one should not use it to suit their own circumstances. When I heard about this transaction, I requested the board and management of KCH to brief me and I gave the copy of that brief to the Prime Minister.

They had existing NEC approvals to actually acquire and to relocate. In one NEC decision, it specifically says; an authorized sum of K50 million to be used to relocate that naval base. These are executive decisions of the Government that can be confirmed by NEC decisions. I don't see why we are simply trying to twist facts to suit ourselves particularly at this time of the year

And I can confirm for the benefit of the good Members that yes monies were paid to the former owners of the land, which was compulsorily acquired by the State. To allow for the Defence Force to relocate we have plans to increase the size of the force to ten thousand people. Any responsible leader must plan ahead and this is exactly what this Government has been doing.

No Report on Soldiers Misconduct

Mr WERA MORI – Since the Minister for Defence is not available, I direct this question to the Prime Minister. Soon we will have the National Elections were we will see our disciplined forces working alongside each other, together with other public servants to conduct the Elections. During the festive season a group of drunk soldiers in an unprovoked manner attacked the NCDC Metropolitan Commander Chief Superintendent Ben Turi.

This is not the first time that we have seen soldiers attacking innocent civilians and on a number of occasions have gone ahead to attack the policemen.

07/04

I just want to know why the hierarchy of the Defence Force did not take any substantive actions against the conduct of such unruly and misbehaving soldiers.

Mr Deputy Speaker, my question is, why is it that we have no outcomes or reports on similar incidents which occurred in the past? I raised this because I remembered that there was an incident whereby a policeman attacked a very senior Defence Force officer. In that incident what the police department decided to do was discipline that particular officer and have him dismissed from the force.

Here we are talking about trying to increase the Defence Force to about 10 000. Would that be necessary under such circumstances?

Instead of having a bigger Defence Force, can we have a paramilitary force, combined with the police force so that it can come under the command of the police commissioner?

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

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am aware that there is an investigation going on within the Defence Force in regard to the incident the Member is referring to where a number of soldiers assaulted the National Capital District Metropolitan Superintendent and also went into the Boroko Police Station and caused a bit of commotion there.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am also informed that those soldiers involved in the incident have been suspended while the investigation is going on.

I will get the Defence Minister to make a statement to this honourable House over the course of this Meeting on this incident and the others that the Member has alluded to.

But, Mr Deputy Speaker, I have already come out publicly and have given directions to the three disciplined forces that such incidences will carry a One Strike and You Are Out' policy. Once you are found guilty of unprovoked assault and misbehaviour you don't deserve to be in a disciplined force whether it be the Defence Force, Police Force or the CS.

So, I expect our commanders and the rank and file to carry out that policy and implement this instruction. So, if they are found guilty, they will be dismissed. If they are not dismissed, I will hold the hierarchy accountable for it.

Honour Previous Government Commitment of K10 million

Mr ANTON YAGAMA – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for acknowledging the people of Usino-Bundi.

My questions are directed to the Minister for Mining and they are as follow:

(1)The previous government made a commitment to the landowners to give them K10 million. When will this K10 million be paid?

Overdue Royalty Payments

(2)Why is there no royalty payments made to my people when many shiploads have left the shores of this project at Basamuk?

(3)When will royalty payments be made to my people?

Mr BYRON CHAN – Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker and congratulations on your election as Deputy Speaker.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Member for Usino-Bundi has asked questions which my department and the authority, MRS has been addressing over the last couple of months. We've had difficulties with our landowners from Ramu Nickel project and these were some of the issues.

I'd like to take this opportunity to clarify that some of these problems, especially royalty stems out from the existing Memorandum of Agreement that was signed prior to the project's existence. And this problem of royalties are actually captured in the MOA.

08/04

The company was given a certain time period to be able to recover its costs and after that be able to pay royalties. However, the situation has changed after some difficult times that people have experienced. A couple of years ago machines were burnt and production was disrupted and there was almost a mine closure just because royalties were not being paid.

It is very sad, Mr Deputy Speaker, that after several years of operations the landowners have not received any royalties for their customary land being used. And it is not their mistake. It is frustrations because of the MOA at that time, the leaders saw fit to bring in this investment but in process we compromised the interests of the landowners.

Nevertheless, now, I would like to congratulate the authority MRA and the company NCC for being able to agree to the people's demand. Therefore, in the last meeting my

director and his staff went to address this situation again with the people from NCC and Ramu Nickel. Therefore, I would like to assure the Member that they have agreed to pay royalties and what percentage of royalties and how much is being calculated right now.

Therefore, once again, I would like to assure the people and the Honourable Member that royalties will be paid. The company has agreed to pay royalties even though the MOA does not give existence to it.

Secondly, regarding the commitment of K10 million by the Prime Minister, I would like to assure the Honourable Member too that the submission is now with the Prime Minister and the NEC to deliberate. It is not part of the MOA. There is no government binding commitment in this project. This commitment was made by the former Prime Minister and we as a government will be able to fulfill those commitments. Therefore, the submission is now before the NEC to deliberate.

Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

Printing Of Ballot Papers

Mr SAM BASIL – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, I would also like to congratulate you for becoming the Deputy Speaker but, please, the Opposition too has the right to nominate its candidates but as you are now the Deputy Speaker, do please recognise the Opposition on the Floor of Parliament.

My question are directed to the Prime Minister with regards to the 2012 National Elections and the issue where a lot of generic ballot papers were used during the election period at that time.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in the 2012 National Election we had thought that the former Electoral Commissioner, Mr Andrew Trawen, asked the government to print an extra 240, 000 generic ballot papers. During that time the government printer was overseas and the junior officers in the Electoral Commission Office went in to the government printing office and printed all the generic ballot papers and moved them with the aid of some vehicles.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Opposition at that time with Mr Belden Namah as the Opposition Leader held a press conference on 27 October, 2012 and mentioned publicly about these generic ballot papers along with the letter written by the former Electoral Commissioner, Mr Andrew Trawen. The letter was dated 9 June, 2012 and ordered the Government Printer to print 240, 000 generic ballot papers. This happened two days before the counting of votes of the 2012 National Elections on 11 June, 2012.

In reply to these allegations, the former Electoral Commissioner, Mr Andrew Trawen came on the *EMTV* news on 27 October, 2012 stating that the 240, 000 generic ballot papers that he ordered were for two electorates in the Morobe Province only. Nevertheless, he never clearly identified these two electorates to this day.

09/04

Mr Deputy Speaker, in the 2012 National Election results showed that the Nawae Electorate where a PNC candidate contested won by 109 percent of the total votes. We all know that a percentage is a figure out of a 100. In Nawae Electorate, 31 234 voters were enrolled in the electoral roll to vote, however, when in voting 34 113 voters voted. This is a concern that the extra 2 000 ballot papers were generic papers that were part of electoral fraud took place.

In Unggai-Bena Electorate where another PNC candidate won, our records show that 103.36 percent voters voted. Also in the Lufa Electorate where the PNC candidate came second, it was 100.24 percent which was still over the 100 percentage. There were many other instances where such things took place but I will go ahead and ask my questions.

My questions are in relation to the ballot papers that are being printed in Indonesia and they are as follows:

(1)Mr Prime Minister, when you mentioned yesterday that these ballot papers will have security codes, what specific kind of codes were you referring to? There are so many printing companies that can do hologram codes in Australia and New Zealand. The laws of these countries are similar to ours, therefore, in the event that something should go wrong with the printing, we can always have the company people arrested and charged.

(2)The ballot papers that are going to be printed, will it have names, labels and codes for districts? Or are they going to be printed as generic ballot papers where the Electoral Commission is going to use all throughout the country? If they are going to print them with names and codes then how many will be printed? In the last election 240 thousand ballot papers were printed and if we were to divide them between the 111 electorates of the country then there will be an extra 2162 papers for each electorate including the provinces.

If we look at the two electorates in Morobe and as the former Electoral Commissioner, Sir Andrew Trawen said in response to former Opposition Leader on 27 October 2012, we will see that 120 thousand of the 240 thousand generic ballot papers was only for those two electorates. We all know that that is not true.

Mr James Marape – Point of Order! I have two points of order here. Firstly, the Deputy Opposition Leader is making a statement in the pretext of a question. He has gone beyond the time limit for asking questions.

Secondly, he is making allegations against an important Constitutional office. Mr Deputy Speaker, Standing Order requires him to table evidences on the Floor of Parliament.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Deputy Opposition Leader, please go straight to your questions.

Mr SAM BASIL – (3) If the printing company in Indonesia breaches certain laws in the course of printing the ballot papers, what are ours and Indonesia's laws that can be used to arrest and charge the people responsible?

The former Government Printer, Mr Ken Kaiya, came out in the media and said that the ballot papers are classified papers, therefore, our Government must bring that contract of printing back to us.

(4) Can the Prime Minister hear him and bring back that contract?

Mr Deputy Speaker, we know that we have not been doing a good job in protecting our PNG/Indonesian borders. Their businesses and intelligence activities are already in PNG especially at our borders.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Deputy Leader of Opposition, please ask your questions.

10/04

Mr SAM BASIL – That is why, we, the Opposition believe that many of our electorates on the border, provincial and district electorates will be at threat because we have many unsolved issues on the border such as the West Papua issue and if our ballot papers get into their hands it will not be good enough that is why we are asking the Prime Minister to bring the printing of the ballot paper back to Papua New Guinea.

Many times, Mr Prime Minister, you state that the Electoral Commission Office is an independent body so you as the Minister of the Electoral Commission and as the Prime Minister too must not order or direct the decisions of the Commissioner, like you always say with the Ombudsman Commission, Police and many other constitutional offices.

But, yesterday, Mr Deputy Speaker, the Opposition asked about the issuing of writs because this independent body of the Electoral Commission had published in the newspaper that the date will be moved forward to the 28 May, 2017 and not 28 April 2017.

You replied that it will not happen on that date and this shows that you are directly in control over them. So, please can you confirm or deny whether you have control and influencing the Electoral Commission?

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Mr Deputy Opposition Leader, you should respect the Chair. You have no respect for the Chair. You're a senior Member of the Opposition and you should show some respect. We have asked you to go straight and ask your questions instead of continuing to read your statement.

Mr James Marape – Point of Order! Mr Deputy Speaker, when you are talking, he seems to have a habit of still standing so can you remind him to sit down and respect you.

(Government Member laughing in the Chamber)

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and thank you to the Deputy Opposition Leader for asking these questions

Firstly, the issue about the printing of more than 200 000 or so ballot papers by Government Printer in 2012. I have heard your questions already and you do not have to lecture to me on how I should answer the questions, Mr Deputy Opposition Leader, because I have been in this Parliament longer than you have.

So, Mr Deputy Speaker, let me say this on the issue of the printing ballot papers, the Government did not go and order the Electoral Commission or Government Printers to print these papers, it was the job of the Electoral Commission and Mr Andrew Trawen is the one who made that decision.

If you think that there is a problem then why didn't you go to the Police or ask Mr Andrew Trawen to make this statement of who gave him directives to do so. He is still living and is somewhere here in Papua New Guinea. He is the brother of the former Prime Minister so he should know.

So, Mr Deputy Speaker, when you talk about those three or four elections with over 100 per cent votes counted, if you are talking about Nawae, Lufa or Unggai-Bena the candidates who are here did not complain, they did not go to Court and they did not say that was electoral fraud but only you, in your little mind you think that there is a conspiracy.

Mr Deputy Speaker, a while ago you said that the Government Printers were involved in fraud but now you are saying you should take the contract from Indonesia and give it to them.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I told him yesterday and I directed the Secretary to contact the Office of the Electoral Commissioner that he must make a public advertisement and explain to the country what decisions he has made so it can be clear to the Opposition Leader and the Deputy Speaker. The Government has no input in his decision making, we cannot influence him because it is an institutional office.

And, Mr Deputy Speaker, when you talk about electoral fraud in Unggai-Bena, you look at Honourable Benny Allan, a third term, so please show some respect. These are people who do not win like some people we know in this Parliament who call themselves leaders.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

11/04

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Mr Deputy Speaker, the leader will know as they are seated near him.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

Mr Don Polye – Point of Order! There's nobody else here. I am sitting next to the Deputy Opposition Leader. Can the Prime Minister call me by name, if it is me, it's Don Polye, Member for Kandep. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Mr Deputy Speaker, it's not time for name calling. We know those who have and those who have not been frequenting the Court over election disputes.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I will get the Electoral Commissioner to put out a public advertisement on his decisions about the printing and the election dates.

Mr Speaker, I said the issue of writs dates was April 20 because that is where he came out publicly and he said it will be guided by some legislations that are here before Parliament if the dates have to change. But today as I know it, the writs will be issued on April 20. As government, we are preparing to go for Elections on that date.

Mr Deputy Speaker, there is nothing sinister going on. We will show transparency and visibility for everybody and we encourage the Electoral Commissioner to be transparent and accountable to the people of Papua New Guinea so everybody is aware about how he is conducting the elections of this nation. Thankyou Mr Speaker.

Mr Don Polye – Point of Order! The Prime Minister forgot to answer the most important question. Will he as the Cabinet leader, Prime Minister and authority even over the constitutional office, or the Cabinet can on good merits, recommend to any constitutional office holder if it is in the best national interest and national security? Can the Prime minister ask, discuss or liaise with the Commissioner to bring the printing back to Papua New Guinea rather than allowing the printing to take place in Indonesia because of so much of the implications that we can foresee. That is the question he needs to answer.

Mr PETER O’NEILL – Mr Deputy Speaker, in response to that question, I have said that I will ask the Commissioner to put out a public advertisement explaining the decisions, why he made them and the processes involved.

Mr Deputy Speaker, just yesterday, the Opposition Leader accused PNC Members of owning that printing company. What kind of a senseless statement is that?

Mr Don Polye – Point of Order! I did not say that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Allow the Prime Minister to answer your question.

Mr PETER O’NEILL – Mr Deputy Speaker, he has been out there in public and everywhere saying all these things. Mr Speaker, let’s talk about facts. Let the Electoral Commissioner explain his actions. It’s for him to explain and I will ask him to do so publicly by putting it in writing so that he can be satisfied.

GRIVIENCE DEBATE

Question proposed –

That the Grievance debate be noted.

Mr GARRY JUFFA (Northern) – Thankyou Mr Speaker, I join my colleagues in congratulating you. You are doing well so far, being fair.

I rise to speak about a number of issues in regards to our people, our nation in particular, with regards to job opportunities and businesses for our people. I will mention a little on land as well. Immediately after independence, there was significant hope in the environment for the young nation rising up with vast resources. Everywhere you went, you could see productivity and Papua New Guineans felt comfortable that their jobs and opportunities and businesses were secured and protected. You fast forward to today that is not the case.

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Everywhere you look, many of the jobs are been taken away from us, many of our businesses and opportunities are no longer available to us. We have become spectators on our own land.

This is a cliché that we have said many times. But it's true! It cannot be avoided. There was a time when Papua New Guineans felt that this was their country. They knew that certain specific job and businesses where for them that they were beyond the reach of globalisation of those who came in with significant amounts of cash to take over and take advantage of a young nations and the young people.

And this is not the case today, government departments and state entities at that time appeared to be anxious, energized with the capacity to protect the interest of our people. Today, it seems that they are doing the opposite; they are selling the interest of our people facilitating the theft of our job and business opportunities. Just go to a settlement or a village and you will find a tucker-box that is not owned by Papua New Guinean. Even betel nut is been sold by foreigners. We used to joke about this that one day, this will happen. But it is no longer a joke, because it is happening. And where are these departments that were designed, and constructed with the specific purposes of protecting PNG interests.

I was a young child in Bougainville, there was an Australian spouses who came and worked in the same hospital where my mother was working and she did not have a Work Permit or Visa. She made a report to the labour office and within a week, she was deported.

How many complaints have been reported to the Labour Office, to the Migrations office, to Customs, to police; nothing is happening. When a government fails to protect its jobs, opportunities and businesses for its people, then it's failing to secure the future for our children. Yes, we need foreign investment. But we need foreign investment that is respectful of our laws. I appeal to each and every one of us here. We are leaders here, our mandate is to protect the interest of our nation at all times. This week I was shocked to hear the Labour Minister state that he had no idea what was happening in this country. Next week, if Parliament continues, I will table a report about the syndicate that is operating in the Labour Department using labour officers who have been unlawfully issuing work permits and sneaking in significant number of foreigners from a particular country who cannot speak a word of English, who are of dubious character and who are proliferating the entire nation and over small businesses. I 'm telling you and where we are going in the next 10 to 20 years, if we give away all our jobs and all our businesses.

What is the point of free education, if we educate our children and then they have no jobs, no opportunities and no bank is lending them money? We don't even own our bank; we gave that away. We are crediting from the market places, around streets and when you don't repay your debts, they might attack you with bush knife and kill you. The banks are for the Leaders and foreigners only. Increasingly, we are seen the theft of our resources and land. God is not making any more land. I have news for you ladies and gentlemen. What he has given us that is limited land and populations meanwhile continues to grow, Papua New Guinea's population is growing at 200 hundred thousand per year that is the size of a small province. We need more land. Meanwhile significant chunks of land are been stolen.

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Big chunks of land are being stolen State land which is the collective interest of us all as well as the customary land. Within a short period of time they will put up fence, shops or buildings and if you try to remove them, they will assault you on your own land. You will run and turn to the government departments and your ministers to assist you. But they will say we do not how to help you. We do not know how this is happening.

So what is the purpose of a government? What is the purpose of being elected into Parliament if we cannot protect the interest of our people? The stories of land theft has become so common now that they are not shocking anymore. They are not accepted anymore but are expected.

In Oro Province I stopped three portions of land that were stolen by foreigners who could barely speak a word of English. They were unlawfully in the country, illegally logging and carrying out various business and now to add insult to injuries they have acquired land unlawfully.

One of them used a lawyer who was not even a lawyer. He was worse than a conman because he was at Laloki and discharged. But somehow he acquired this land and I reported him. This man put a fence around and I went and stopped him from expanding and I am still waiting for the lands officers to take charge and do something about this.

Our people are starting to feel neglected and miserable. They have been cast out of their own home. They are standing outside in the dark and in the rain begging, with bowls in their hand. They are watching into their own homes while other people are feasting on their resources and what is rightfully theirs. So what are we doing about it? We are the ones mandated to protect their interest but we have forgotten why we are here. Some of us are happily facilitating some of these activities. We must not forget the reasons why we are here.

We must not abandon them at the gates of Parliament every five years and only return to find them after the five years is finished and finally be active in every funeral, every church event and shake hands with each and every one of them.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the time to protect them is when we are here. We are here to protect their interests, their jobs and opportunities because without them we have no future. Each and every one of you mandated as Ministers should be very alert and aware.

For instance, if I was the labour minister driving past Erima or Gerehu, I would ask the question how is it that this tucker-boxes are owned by this people? I would walk in there and find out that most of them do not speak a word of English but how were they given work permits because English is a pre-requisite. It is a requirement that they speak English before they be issued work permits.

If I were the migration minister I would be very concerned. There are large group of expatriates coming into this country under the guise of business visa. They are not paying taxes because they are not recorded as tax payers or income earners. But they are here earning a significant volume of money as consultants.

It is funny to note that on the street at buai market level, the ordinary common citizens know about this but we in here are supposed to be learned and with access to information they don't.

I also noted that over a period of time, there has been deterioration of specific entities within government departments that were tasked to protect the national security of this nation, for instance, the NIO. Did you know that at Independence we had 100 officers? That was the capacity. Today, we have 30 officers and there isn't a director general. He has been acting for the last two years. Thank you.

14/04

The election petitions that were on, I feel aggrieved that I should give an explanation because he raised that issue and gave an inference, there was something wrong with my election by the people of Kandep. And if there is something there that he needs to understand then it is my duty to explain, because I am a leader on this side and I cannot allow such comments made by the Prime Minister go without any explanation from me.

Now in the election petitions that we see in this country; it has been riddled with so many election petitions annually after General Elections. We are probably one of the only country in the region that experiences so many election petitions. There are many reasons why such election petitions are filed but major reasons come in three categories; the omissions and errors by the Electoral Commission, the officers on the ground do not do their job.

The second is that the candidate does not conduct him/herself in an orderly fashion within the context of law, like bribery or using other influence on the voters. The final reason being as sabotage caused by other people or from various angles who do not want a particular candidate to win.

Mr Deputy Speaker, let me say that the first part of my discussion here; my case has not being one of me causing any problems in the Kandep electorate. All the election petition that I have experienced throughout the time when I was elected; I have always being challenged by election petitions but nothing of something that I have ever done. I would like to let this Parliament and the people of this country know that these matters have been in Court all the time is because of two reasons.

Sabotage caused by other candidates on the election process and as a result of errors and omissions caused by electoral officials who conduct the elections. If the court finds that

there are errors, whether there has been a sabotage or not, you still have a by-election. What has happened in my case is that in 2009, I did end up in a by-election and I never challenged the National court in the Supreme Court. I went to the by-election to prove the verdict vested on me by the people of Kandep.

So when the court decided I went back and won on primary votes but this time I had 3000 extra votes. The runner-up was below 20,000. In 2002 I got elected in the First Past the post and I won by a big margin. I won by primary votes and I look forward to winning by primary votes again this coming election.

Even in the recount, I won by primary votes alone so I stand tall as I have been mandated genuinely and fairly by the people of Kandep. Election petitions come about because people have the right to challenge me that is why they are challenging me and I do not mind. I do not have any reason to go around bribing them not to challenge me. I have been tested so many times and I have stood tall in all these. Even if the ballot papers are coming in from Indonesia, I will still come in because I am speaking for the country that there is no reeking taking place. And we have to be fairly elected and let us do it in a just and fair way. That is the first part, and I have to be greedy because, the Prime Minister continues to say this all the time. I know he also won on primary votes but compared to me he won only ones not four times like me. And I have never stopped candidates from bringing out petitions against me.

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I know you also want to win by primary votes, but that was only once, not four times like myself. I hold the record and I've never stopped the losing candidates from bringing petitions to court, you have gone and stopped candidates from petitioning against you. I haven't.

My second grievance is on Works, and I am glad that Minister for Works is here. I have the *Hansard* here and I am aggrieved because the honourable Minister for Works, my friend, my senior, gave a commitment saying that by the 17th of January, work will commence in Mount Hagen on the highway that goes up past Hagen to Togoba, connecting Ialibu-Pangia in Southern Highlands and down that way to Jiwaka, Chimbu, and Lae to connect Momase.

And the Prime Minister had given his commitment on a billboard which has taken up the space of three buildings on the same project.

The Minister for Works came out in *Hansard* in answer to one of my questions and said, Leader of the Opposition, you shut up. We will build the road on the 17th of January and you will see the four-lane road constructed.

I am aggrieved now, Mr Deputy Speaker. I just drove down recently and, O mama mia, the road is not akin to a road at all. I keep on describing it as a big volcano crater. Even the big 18-wheelers cannot drive through it. What the big trucks have done is that they have deviated from the main highway into the town of Mount Hagen destroying the town roads in order to avoid the huge craters there. I am aggrieved because these are the real issues.

Mr Francis Awesa – Point of Order! My point of order is this, the contractor that was awarded the contract will be moving on site and I want to advise the Opposition Leader that once the possession of site has been given to the contractor those potholes that he's been referring to will be addressed while waiting for the actual construction to take place.

Mr DON POLYE – Not only you but the Prime Minister must listen in on that. He doesn't realise what his priority areas are.

The other area is the Wandu road slip. I walked across there just recently when I went to visit Governor Soso down in Eastern Highlands. I believe the Governor of Chimbu also did that. This road has deteriorated.

I am aggrieved because it is the bloodline of Papua New Guinea, and if the Prime Minister and his Ministers forget this piece of asset, what is more important to them?

What is there that is more important that it occupies the mind of the Prime Minister and the Government that they continually forget the most important asset. This is not only my grievance, it is also that of the eight million people of Papua New Guinea.

Ministers are standing up saying that we will do it next week or week after next and so on. We know you don't have money. You cannot do it. It is impossible at this time and we all know that, there is nobody who is stupid. The country has no money. Prime Minister, Minister for Works and everybody else on the other side should just say, sorry, we have run the country down and there is no money so Opposition, provide some alternative policies and take over.

Mr PETER O'NEILL (Ialibu-Pangia – Prime Minister) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Again, I wasn't going to speak because I wanted to listen to all other Members putting out their grievances on this day but some statements from the Opposition Leader are very provoking so I have to put him in his place because he has not correct in many of the serious allegations he is making.

Sir Michael Somare – *Interjecting!*

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Both of you have run the country over the last 10 years and I am now fixing your problems. Do not walk away, Chief, sit down and listen.

Where you squander the money when the coffers are full, I don't know, but anyway that is a matter for another time.

On the issue of roads – in grievance debate there shouldn't be any points of order, I can say anything I want.

Mr Sam Basil – I want the Prime Minister to show some respect to the former Prime Minister because he served as the Treasury Minister under the Grand Chief and he was also responsible for decisions allocating money to wherever they allocate it to. So, it is improper for him to make such statements. I want you to withdraw them.

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In grievance debate, there should not be any points of order.

Mr Sam Basil – Point of Order! Your statement is misleading.

I would like the Prime Minister to respect the former Prime Minister because the Prime Minister served as the Treasurer Minister under the Grand Chief. Therefore, you were also responsible in making the decisions in where to put the country's money. So, it is not good that you make this kind of statement and I want you to retract your statement.

Thank you.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thank you, but I was the Treasurer for only a year and most of the work that I started now I have done them. Have you not noticed that?

For example, Lae City when you and your father were still sleeping I went put cement for most of the roads. With that, just let me finish what I have to say.

Therefore, with regards to the roads and when we had good prices from 2002 to 2011 we had almost K8 billion in trust accounts for the many different projects for the Somare-Polye Government. Between K400 million to K500 million was given to the National Agriculture Development Programme and they spent all that money but they did not build any roads, bridges, hospitals or schools.

Many cheques were written from the National Development Programme to their supporters and spent all that money for nothing. And also, when you were the Planning Minister at that time I had asked you to make them accountable and you just made no effort to do so.

Mr Sam Basil – Point of Order! I would like to correct what the Prime Minister has said. We all had put Task Force Sweep in place and when the taskforce started investigating you, you had them removed.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – This is a separate issue here and the Deputy Opposition Leader knows this himself. He and that other young man that he himself appointed tried to play politics and that was why we removed the Task Force Sweep.

Now, you go and show that off in the Elections –

Mr Sam Basil – Point of Order!

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Sit down!

Mr Sam Basil – Point of Order!

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Sit down!

Mr Sam Basil – Mr Deputy Speaker, Mr Sam Koim is a professional man and he showed professionalism while performing his duties. And for the Prime Minister to say such things about him is unbecoming.

I would like the Prime Minister to retract what he said and apologise.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – That's fine when I finish what I have to say first.

I said that because you wanted to play politics and therefore, such thing will occur.

Now, as I was saying about the National Agriculture Development Programme the Planning Department at that time was managing that project. As a result, they almost spent K400 million to K500 million. There were no plantations or business occurring in Papua New Guinea, there were no plantations for commodities and they just wasted the money for nothing, and the former Planning Minister knows all of this.

The second issue is about the RESI Programme. This came about because they wanted to create infrastructures inside the Education Department with another K300 million or K400 million. These were the kinds of programmes that was done over and over and money was wasted. This resulted in classrooms not being built, contracts were given to all sorts of companies and these companies did not build these infrastructures. Therefore, K8 billion was wasted. I know that I am telling the truth because you were there and witnessed everything. This is not an issue where we can laugh and just ignore.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Opposition Leader knows that most of the money for the Highlands Highway and other projects when he was the Works Minister and Treasurer, he directed funding to Kandep. He directed about K500 million projects from Mendi to Kandep.

Then the question here is, how many vehicles frequent that road from Mendi to Kandep? He had wasted the priority of the government and the money. The money could have been used in areas where there were more population of people.

Mr Sam Basil – Point of Order! I was a Member of that Cabinet when it happened.

Mr Deputy Speaker, when I was in Cabinet at that time, that submission came before the Cabinet and the Prime Minister was all praises and said to go ahead with the project. So, why then are you saying otherwise? Why are you lying? You were the one that gave the approval for this project.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Be still and quiet and listen. Okay, the Minister brought the submission and it was approved by the ADB because it was an ADB funded project.

(Opposition Members interjecting)

Mr Deputy Speaker – This is grievance debate so allow the Prime Minister to complete what he has to say.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – ADB funded projects are very simple. When ADB recommends a contractor we don't have a choice, the government does not have a choice. But who recommended such a big money to be spent in one electorate where there are no cars.

17/04

With regard to the four lanes in Mt Hagen, the Cabinet has considered all the paper work and money has been approved. The contractor China Harbour is on the ground starting work from Kagamuga to Kautiga. The Opposition Leader is saying he won't drive around in that road but when night falls he will be driving around on those roads.

(Laughter in Chamber)

Mr Don Poyle interjecting

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – With due respect, let me make it clear that this is the Grievance Debate and everyone will have time to say something. Therefore allow the Prime Minister to finish his statement. You will be given your time.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Mr Deputy Speaker, for that particular road in Mt Hagen, we allocated almost K10 million to fix including feeder roads there.

I am very pleased after many months of negotiations, we are able to deliver that four-lane project. In Western Highlands, we have delivered the airport, the new terminal, the Kapal Haus and we are also assisting the Western Highlands Provincial Government. The Kapal Haus was burnt down during the Somare-Polye reign and was never rebuilt. We are doing a lot of projects that will benefit the people of Mt Hagen and the Highlands Region.

Mr Deputy Speaker, also for the Highlands Region as announced on Tuesday, I am very pleased that ExxonMobil, Oil Search and few other companies are participating in the tax programme arrangement for us to repair and maintain these roads. We are almost there with signing the final arrangements. As soon as we sign, I will announce the details in Parliament.

These arrangements are in relation to sections of the Highlands Highway, the Hiritano Highway and Madang-Ramu Highway. These highways will be given to private contractors

to maintain all year around for three years. It will be funded through a tax credit arrangement so that we do not wait for Treasury or the Works Department to attend their problems.

Mr KILA HAODA (Central) – I rise to express concern over three portions of land describe as portion 406, 422 and 423 along the Hiritano Highway. Those portions cover the villages of Manumanu, Toutu, Pininu, Mangabaina, Gaukana, Kerona and Isiyu.

In 2016, the Member for Kairuku-Hiri and I were called to a meeting at Manumanu and they asked us to present a petition to our Prime Minister. This rally was attended by mothers and children which was a clear indication of a concern by family units and potential loss of livelihood. There were more women than men in this meeting.

Today we hear about the attitude of our Defence Force treating our people. That is what scares our people and that is why there were a lot more women than men in that meeting. Normally in our custom there are more men in the meeting than women but this time it was the opposite.

I immediately presented a petition to our Prime Minister. I had a discussion with him and I was given certain assurance about this land.

18/04

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER – Governor, sorry, can I interrupt you for a while, but I would like to call up on the Member for Kabwum. You are a former Speaker of the House and you should have respect when someone is speaking you should not walk in front of him.

Mr KILA HAODA – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, while patiently awaiting a respectful response from our Prime Minister to my people of Kairuku-Hiri, we have come to learn from social media and reliable government sources that this State-owned Land has been sold and proceeds held by prominent people of this Government Agencies.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we are elected to this Government as guardians of our people and guardians of their property but we are now doing the opposite; we should be protecting and looking after them but we are not. As long as I remain as the Governor of Central Province I will not allow the sale of these land 406, 422 and 423, when it is being sold under questionable deals.

Mr Deputy Speaker, through you, can the Parliament listen to the plea of my people of Central Province. The social values inherited in this land must not be marginalised by petty

economic gains. We are not interested what the Defence can bring in to our land there. We have surplus amounts of food. That area is a food base area of Central Province as well. Where the coastal area is marked for the naval base that is where we have barramundi breathing ground, on the river we have so many shells, crabs and other crustaceans, you name them we have them.

Honourable Members, when the Defence move in, these sea creatures will be gone in a very short time. We are comfortable living there and we are not interested in the money that Defence will bring. My people are scared and do not want these land to be given away.

After your political careers are over, Members, you return home to your pristine waters, pristine forests and you name it while I will remain here and as so long as my heart beats I will see the spoils of my people and what the Government is doing to them, the land grabbing, the migration of the election people coming here and the population will grow bigger and bigger in NCD. Than where do they go? You all know that answer, they will come to my province and create more problems. So, when I retire all those things will be in my eyes until my heart stops beating

Mr Deputy Speaker, through you, I want to thank the Prime Minister for giving us DSIP and PSIP and with the cooperation of my Open Members of Parliament we have delivered a lot to Central Province, but in Kairuku-Hiri we have not done well.

In 2011 Census we had 122 thousand people in Kairuku-Hiri. We are operating as two districts, with two CEO's because it is a huge electorate which is equivalent to province. We have not done well because when you talk about sharing the wealth of the nation it must be equally shared but in Kairuku-Hiri it doesn't happen. When you are trying the grab our land, you are hitting us below the belt.

Thank you so much, Mr Prime Minister, you have given us so much but give me back this land, this is the crown of the jewels please give it back to my people.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr WERA MORI (Chuave) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to air my grievances.

19/04

Mr WERA MORI (Chuave) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to air my grievances. But before I share that, I would like to take note of what the

Governor of central has said and it is about time that we must also be able to pronounce that we owe the people of Central province a lot of gratitude.

Mr Deputy Speaker, for the benefit of the Member for Usino Bundi, we would like to help my Minister to make some clarifications as to why there has been some delay in the payment of royalties to Ramu Nickle.

Mr Deputy Speaker, when the Basimuk facilities were designed, they did not anticipate presence of chromite credits in nickel cobalt and therefore it was very imperative that they had to redesign and change the facilities down at Basimuk so that they can be able to recover nickel and cobalt and that was why it pushed back the threshold for production efficiency of 90 per cent before royalties can be paid. So that is basically one of the causes of the delay in the royalty payments to the landowners for the Ramu Nickel projects.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I know that I come from a district that may be insignificant when it comes to contributing impact projects to the country but it is only fair that I must say this because the people of Chuave elected me to represent them on the Floor of this Parliament.

Mr Deputy Speaker, no one can deny the fact that we have been a victim of global warming. Every year, we have this prolonged, unfriendly weather, especially wet weather that affects the primary infrastructure that we depend on, particularly our road networks. I know that we are left behind because when such things happen, provinces that have impact projects are given the nod. But I would like to say that we must be able to be fair to some districts and provinces and especially my district of Chuave, rain has continuously destroyed the district road networks that we have. We are making attempts to fix them under DSIP and we can only do so when DSIP funds become available.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in 2013 to 2014, Chuave district was the first district to meet all requirements of the Asian development program and the Erimbari-Siane road was nominated. Today, that has not come into consideration in terms of funding. I know that they said that they put up an interest form. This did not happen after I screamed at the Country Director of ADB in Hagen and I told him to pack up and leave.

Mr Deputy Speaker, if the criteria's are to be met and if we meet them, why can't such projects be implemented in a district like Chuave. I know that some of the roads that are being funded have still not met some of the requirements of ADB. It is only fair that I air my grievance here in Parliament because I would be doing injustice to my people of Chuave if I don't raise this matter here in Parliament. Now many of my district roads are closed.

Unfortunately, the district is located on unfavourable geology and therefore it has always become a problem for us especially when it comes to maintaining our roads.

20/04

Mr Deputy Speaker, I know that honourable Members of Parliament have spoken time and again on the need for the bypass to the problematic Daulo Pass section of the Highlands Highway but this have gone into deaf ears and we still have the same problems occurring.

Over the last two weeks, several sections of Daulo Pass were closed and have been attended to and this brings me to a point that I want to state here. I believe that there is a major fraud between the engineers and contractors and I am going to justify my statement. Why are we doing the same things and arriving at the same results after roads are maintained but we have potholes appearing after three or four months? And it goes down not only to the design but the materials that are used. I know that there are cracks in the cement laid on the streets of Lae City.

If this is true, I would like to allude the Members in Parliament to a statement I made earlier that the contractors were using cheap materials from the Bumbu or Busu rivers. They are purely carbonaceous material and are not good for road aggregates. Being carbonaceous and in a place such as Lae where you have 2 to 3 metres of annual rainfall, you must know that such rain affects aggregates and they become carbonic acids and they leach out the sediments which creates a lot of little holes. When you have a water been over saturated, they will wear away the tars.

And I remember a point I made one time that why don't they bring the aggregates that is being produced by Papua New Guinean company based in Bulolo along the Bulolo River and stock pile them in Lae so that we can fix those roads properly so when you cement them, they will not have cracks. You have to quarry rocks that can withstand bad weather and especially in a tropical country like Papua New Guinea. I don't like to be a salesman for Komun Crusher but I must say that if we are going to fix those roads in Mt Hagen, we might as well use all the aggregates from Komun Crusher. We must not look elsewhere because this is the only aggregates that can withstand bad weather.

And when engineers are designing roads, we might as well take the mining engineering approach where we design mines based on the strength of rocks and not on soil. Why do the engineers continue to apply the wrong designs when the roads fail? And thank you with due respect to the Member for Goilala who is a very profound engineer himself.

Now we are going to push for engineers to design roads based on the strength of rocks. They must conduct those sorts of durability studies so that when they design roads, they ensure that we build roads on bedrocks and not on soil so that we can save this country a lot of money.

Mr Deputy Speaker, therefore, I want to say that in future we divert money from such programs as NADB and RESI and put them into DSIP so that we can do a better job. I know that our good Prime Minister is a testimony to what we have done in Chuave using DSIP funds and he has went there and opened our impact projects.

Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr MARK MAIPAKAI (Kikori) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as the Deputy Speaker of this National Parliament and I have every confidence in you that you will capably discharge your duties.

I want to talk on two points.

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Firstly, there are few points that I would like to debate on. In relation to the influx of foreigners. I think things were better controlled when influx of foreigners were restricted to Labour Department only. We know who was coming in and who was going out. When Migration Division of Foreign Affairs Department was directly involved, it brought in influx of people in the pretence of business visa. That was when it got out of control.

I would like to support the views of the Minister for Foreign Affairs to merge these two divisions so that it is better controlled. Currently there are two sources through which foreign labours forces are coming into this country, therefore, it is difficult for us to control it.

One time I went to a Boroko East shop and saw a Chinese at the cashier and I asked him whether he has a work permit or not. He said the boss has it. So I made it my duty to go and see the labour inspectors to get out there. There was a time, I followed truck load full of fig trees and there was a guy who was sleeping like a crocodile on this full loaded truck. It was very unsafe for that person. Mr Speaker, as english is a pre-requisite they can come and learn it first. Tok pisin is very easy for Chinese to learn. So whether we are in the Opposition or Government this is something that we must do

So in relation to these issues, the government must tighten up the laws, streamline and merge labour work permits and the visa section so that it will be easier to keep tracks as well as put in control measures. I totally agree because it will control influx of foreigners.

Secondly, there was a question I raised whether the Prime Minister was in a position to assist me with tax credit. Now we hear him on the floor making announcement about tax credit being tied to major projects. How do you fit in a little electorate like Kikori? I have been purely surviving here because of my DSIP to manage my affairs.

So my Governor who is the custodian to sign agreements, most of our moneys are channelled through the Provincial Government. Try put yourself in a situation where you do not have a working relationship. I hardly get one IDG funds. For the record of the Minister for Planning, I have confronted him so many times yet he continues to give millions to Gulf Administration.

There is nothing of SSGSs in Kikori electorate. Let me correct the Prime Minister that the boats were never acquired through DSIP. The boats were worth millions and I thank him. He did help me with some of those issues. So you should not come in as an amateur to start politics. I have done well. I secured three boats under the coastal shipping program.

Mr Speaker, Waigani is a thick jungle. If you do not know where and about Waigani and Vulupindi, you are lost for the next five years. I think some of us who are here are part of the decisions that were made and I thank the Prime Minister for the roads.

Mr Speaker, I was a party, with my leaders to the loan drawings on the sealing that is taking place in Kerema.

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The fact is that somewhere along the line we have to make decisions because some of you open members will become victims as I am.

You may be a local Member feeling proud of a project like the Elk- Antelope but I will still sit here because I do not have a say how our provincial governments are managing our district related projects. Gulf for the last 5-15 years, nothing has gone from under PSIP down to the people of Kikori. How many millions that have been pumped into Gulf nothing has reached us in Kikori. Somewhere along the line we have to amend the laws whereby the local MPs become direct participants and have a direct say in whatever goes down to the districts.

With political differences among ourselves, we may come from a very rich electorate but as a local MP and if the Governor has his way you will miss out as is my case, so I want

to share it with you all. I like the term tax credit and some commitments must be made on this. I am happy that you shared the tax credit funding with the nation but our district was directly affected, that is why I shared my sentiments on this issue yesterday. A lot of tax credit funds are spent outside the districts so what I am asking for is not K70 million like we spent on rebuilding the Pineapple Building.

Now you are making the announcement that most of our road intervention programs will be in joint partnership with companies which are totally outside of affected districts. So let us be considerate in some of the decisions that we make. I will still see the Prime Minister in regards to some decisions on Correctional Services because we will still have law and order issues.

When the road link was created there is an influx of Southern Highlanders in Kikori and there is so much law and order issues. I want the inmates who are now serving their term in Bomana to go back so that their families can visit them there. It is not good that the Government has neglected the CS issue in Gulf. Forty years is a long time for a province to be without a government institution. I will come with a proposal to the office of the Prime Minister and I want Oil Search to be directed as it is about time that they assist because law and order will not affect our people because their projects too will be affected. And now that the Total Project is in with the Elk and Antelope projects, we will see a rising in law and order so before this term of Parliament is up, will request the Prime Minister for his commitment to sort this issue CS establishment in Gulf. If Kerema has no land, we have a lot in Kikori and to Defence if the Central Province is against the use of their land, come to us in Kikori, I believe there it is appropriate to establish the army base. There is no deep harbour in Manumanu. The Government has to be clear because there was a big celebration as there was another land acquired just before Motukea.

Mr JOE SUNGI (Nuku Open) – Thank you, and I would like to congratulate you on your election to the Chair. My grievance is in relation to service delivery system of this country and I think we have a situation that we as Members of Parliament are caught in between.

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I think we have a situation that we as Members of Parliament are caught in between trying to get into the system of service delivery as opposed to our primary role as legislators.

It is the system that we ought to think about in terms of how we strategise to make sure that the delivery system that has been established since Independence, from the time of our Founding Fathers at the time of Independence, the Kiap System was delivering already, even before Independence.

So, Mr Deputy Speaker, we need to re-look at that. Although the District Development Authority is now in place, I still think that, in terms of how the Budget is delivered and how the funds are distributed down through our system of government leaves a lot to be desired.

There's a lot more that we need to do in order to free ourselves and concentrate on legislature rather than going in and becoming project managers and service deliverers. For example, there is no point in us knowing how much money gets into our system. The system must work automatically. When we pass the Budget, that's where we stop and let the service delivery system take over from there.

There is no point in us checking the Planning Minister on the timing of the release of the DSIP funds.

So, there is a lot of improvements that we need to make as a government so we can concentrate on our roles and responsibilities rather than trying to get into the service delivery system which is the domain of our public servants and the public service' service delivery system that should be fully functioning. It should not be relying on us.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I was privileged to travel with the Chairman of the Bougainville Affairs Committee to Westminster in London, Northern Ireland and to Scotland and saw how the system worked there. It worked perfectly.

I questioned one of the Members of Parliament from Westminster who is not even a Member of the Scottish Government how he campaigns for re-election because he has no money at all.

He said, I have no control over the budget. I don't know how the budget goes from the central government in Westminster down to Scotland because the Scotland Government looks after all the services. And when the Parliament Member at Westminster goes into the Scottish Government he has to get a visitor's pass and enter the Scottish Government's Parliament as a visitor. That's how their system works.

What I am trying to relate to here is that that's the system that we should have which should work automatically. When the budget is approved for a province or an LLG then it should just start to flow.

We should not come to Port Moresby and check when the warrant will be released or when will the cheque be released. It is not our job. The system itself must click on. When you press the button the secretary for Treasury releases the warrant, it goes to the Finance Department, automatically gets to the provincial treasury and ends up at the district treasury. So we will free ourselves and don't want to bother the Ministers.

For example the Minister for Planning has got other things that he must do. It is not his job to wait for us to call him and check on the cheques. When will the cheque be ready? When will the warrant come? The Prime Minister has the country to run.

So, I think as a matter of interest for all of us as leaders, our primary role to be here is to pass laws. We legislate.

It is not for us to come and talk about the government funds, the Opposition is not getting enough money and so on. We should not worry about that and ask ourselves all the time. We should concentrate on passing laws.

The system itself should work. There will come a time that the system itself will work. When we pass the Budget, the service delivery system must take over and it should work. We should not be sitting here and checking on these things.

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For example, connecting the donor funding. I do not know if some of you know how donor funds come in and find its way into the system of budget. Some of you long serving Members of Parliament know it while some of us first timers may not. So, it is about time that we know so we can direct donor funding to where the areas of need are.

Therefore, it is not because the Minister is from that province or from that district that those funds will go there. It should automatically synchronise and fit in with the Budget because we know where the need is; for example, if we know the need is in Teleformin or Chuave then give them.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we have a lot of time to work on the service delivery system of this country and it must work, that we must rely on, trust upon and know that it will deliver to our people.

What we are basically caught up with now and facing as a challenge is that we are trying to push the system to work because we know that it is not working. We must come to a stage where the system of service delivery in this country must work on its own.

When will that time come? So, I coming from a background of being in the province myself for a very long time and becoming a legislator, Mr Deputy Speaker, we need to rethink as we go to the elections. Some of us will come back while some of us will not, but in the new government we must look at the way the service delivery of this country can be improved in order to be able to free ourselves from going down to the service delivery system and make sure that we spend time passing the laws. And also, make sure that some of these laws that we pass sometimes we cannot even enforce them ourselves.

For example, the policing system is probably not working because of the law and order situation that we have in this country.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this is my grievance that I would like to share with this Parliament. And I have a conviction that one fine day Papua New Guinea will eventually find that we will be relying without any hesitation on the system we have. The public service machinery, the system of finance and the budget will be synchronised with each other and this should work on its own.

This is so that we can free ourselves and spend more time passing laws that are important for this country. This is my grievance debate for today and I hope that it is an important one for us to make sure that we can contribute meaningfully to the improving of services in education, health and the sectors that we have in this country.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Motion – That grievance be noted – agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (by **Mr Charles Abel**) agreed to –

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

Parliament adjourned at 12:55 p.m..