

FIRST DAY

Wednesday 2 August 2017
DRAFT HANSARD

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
CORRECTIONS TO DAILY DRAFT HANSARD

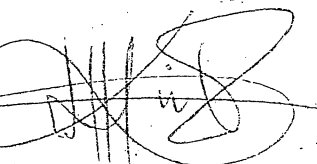
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LEE SIROTE

Acting Principal Parliamentary Reporter

FIRST DAY

Wednesday 2 August 2017

The National Parliament met at 11.13 a.m., pursuant to Notice of His Excellency the Governor-General, **Sir Bob Dadae**, which was published in the *National Gazette*.

The Clerk read the Notice.

The Clerk - I have to announce that I have received the return of writs for 106 electorates from the Governor-General and I will now read out the names of all electorates and Members against the list that I have received. Starting with Member for Bougainville Provincial, Mr Joe Lera, Member for Central Bougainville –

Mr Kerenga Kua – Point of Order! There is a domestic house-keeping issue that needs to be raised at this point before we move on. Insofar as all practical purposes are concerned, you are now in charge of administration of the Standing Orders in the absence of an elected Speaker.

The point of order is on the floor and it takes priority above everything else and that has to be determined now.

The point of order is this; we are now proceeding into the formalities of a supposedly constituted Parliament. And every individual on the Floor of this Parliament has to be duly elected. Right now, Mr Clerk, you have so many strangers on the Floor of this Parliament, especially on that side of the Parliament and I can tell you, Mr Clerk, that there are six strangers on the Floor of this Parliament as you speak.

Mr Clerk, you are duty bound under *Standing Order 242* to order the withdrawal of strangers on this Floor of Parliament before any other step is taken and even before the Chief Justices comes in and you read the names on the writs sent to you by the Governor-General. Now let me point out to you the strangers here so that you can move forward very quickly.

(Members interjecting)

Mr Kerenga Kua - Mr Clerk, listen to me, I have the Floor so ask those people to sit there quietly and they will learn something for once in their life.

(Members interjecting)

Mr Kerenga Kua - Mr Clerk, listen carefully, the first stranger on this Floor of Parliament is the purported Member for Ialibu-Pangia. He is a stranger and ought to be removed by an order of withdrawal.

Don't come here, go and take your chair, I got the Floor. Go and stand over there.

02/01

(Members interjecting!)

Mr Kerenga Kua – Look at this,

Mr Clerk – Member-elect can you please take your seat.

(Members interjecting!)

Mr Clerk – Can you resume your seat? I will go through this list.

(Members interjecting!)

Mr Kerenga Kua – The Electoral Commissioner has made two declarations in Moresby.

Mr James Marape – This is not in Port Moresby, shut up –

Mr Clerk – Sir, let's not debate on this matter. Can we continue with this?

(Mr Kerenga Kua interjecting!)

(Members interjecting!)

Mr James Marape – This is not a court room, go to the court!

Mr Clerk – I am sorry, Sir, resume your seat.

Mr Kerenga Kua – There are two double declarations! How can you make two declarations? Administrators like the Electoral Commissioner can't get this simple thing right.

PNC Members – Go to the court!

LIST OF MEMBERS AND ELECTORATES

The Clerk called upon the Members elect as per the list supplied by the Governor General under the powers vested in him for the supply of such lists.

03/01

Electorate

Bougainville Provincial
Central Bougainville
North Bougainville
South Bougainville
Abau
Central Provincial
Goilala
Kairuku-Hiri
Rigo
Chuave
Gumine
Karimui-Nomane Open
Kerowagi Open
Sinasina-Yonggamugl Open
East New Britain Provincial
Gazelle Open
Kokopo Open
Pomio Open

Member

Joe Lera
Simon Dumarinu
William Naki
Timothy Masiu
Puka Temu
Robert Agarobe
William Samb
Peter Namea Isoaimo
Lekwa Gure
Wera Mori
Nick Kuman
Geoffrey Kama
Bari Palma
Kerenga Kua
Nakikus Konga
Jelta Wong
Emil Tamur
Elias Kapavore

Rabaul Open
 East Sepik Provincial
 Ambunti-Drekikir Open
 Angoram Open
 Maprik Open
 Wewak Open
 Wosera-Gawi
 Yangoru-Saussia Open
 Daulo Open
 Goroka Open
 Henganofi Open
 Kainantu Open
 Lufa Open
 Obura-Wonenara Open
 Okapa Open
 Unggai-Bena Open
 Enga Provincial
 Kompam-Ambum Open
 Lagaip-Porgera Open
 Wabag Open
 Wapenamanda Open
 Gulf Provincial
 Kerema Open
 Kikori Open
 Hela Provincial
 Komo-Margarima Open
 Koroba-Lake Kopiago Open
 Tari-Pori Open
 Jiwaka Provincial
 Anglimp-South Wahgi Open
 Jimi Open
 North Wahgi Open
 Madang Provincial
 Bogia Open
 Madang Open
 Middle Ramu Open
 Rai Coast Open
 Sumkar Open
 Usino-Bundi Open
 Manus Provincial
 Manus Open
 Milne Bay Provincial
 Alotau Open
 Esa'ala Open
 Kiriwina- Goodenough Open
 Samarai-Murua Open
 Morobe Provincial
 Bulolo Open
 Finschhafen Open
 Huon Gulf Open

Allan Marat
 Allan Bird
 Johnson Wapunai
 Salio Waipo
 John Simon
 Kevin Isifu
 Joseph Jerry Yopyyopy
 Richard Maru
 Pogio Gahate
 Henry Ame
 Robert Atiyafa
 Johnson Tuke
 Moriape Kavori
 Mehrra Minnie Kipefa
 Saki Hacky Soloma
 Benny Allen
 Peter Ipatas
 John Pundari
 Tomait Kapili
 Lino Tom
 Rimbink Pato
 Chris Haiveta
 Richard Mendani
 Soroi Marepo Eoe
 Philip Undialu
 Manasseh Makiba
 Petrus Thomas
 James Marape
 William Tongamp
 Joe Kuli
 Wake Goi
 Fabian Pok
 Peter Yama
 Robert Naguri
 Brian Kramer
 Johnny Alonk
 Peter Gemungo Sapia
 Chris Yer Nangoi
 Jimmy Uguro
 Charlie Benjamin
 Job Pomat
 John Luke Crittin
 Charles Abel
 Davis Steven
 Douglas Tomuriesa
 Isi Henry Leonard
 Ginson Saonu
 Sam Basil
 Renbo Paita
 Ross Seymour

Kabwum Open
 Lae Open
 Markham Open
 Menyamya Open
 Nawae Open
 Tewai-Siassi Open
 National Capital District
 Moresby North-East Open
 Moresby North-West Open
 Moresby South Open
 New Ireland Provincial
 Kavieng Open
 Namatanai Open
 Northern Provincial
 Ijivitari Open
 Sohe Open
 Ialibu-Pangia Open
 Imbongu Open
 Kagua-Erave Open
 Nipa-Kutubu Open
 West New Britain Provincial
 Kandrian- Gloucester Open
 Talasea Open
 West Sepik Provincial
 Aitape-Lumi Open
 Nuku Open
 Telefomin Open
 Vanimu-Green Open

Patrick Bassa
 John Rosso
 Koni Iguan
 Thomas Pelika
 Kennedy Wenge
 Kobby Bomareo
 Powes Parkop
 John Kaupa
 Mekere Morauta
 Justin Tkatchenko
 Julius Chan
 Ian Ling-Stuckey
 Walter Schnaubelt
 Garry Juffa
 Richard Masare
 Henry Johns Amuli
 Peter O'Neill
 Pila Niningi
 Wesley Raminai
 Pesab Jeffery Komal
 Sasindran Muthuvel
 Joseph Lelang
 Francis Maneke
 Tony Wouwou
 Patrick Pruiatch
 Joe Sungi
 Solan Mirisim
 Belden Namah

04/01

Western Provincial
 Middle Fly
 North Fly
 South Fly
 Western Highlands Provincial
 Dei
 Hagen
 Mul-Baiyer
 Tambul-Nebilyer

Taboi Awi Yoto
 Roy Biyama
 James Donald
 Sekie Agisa
 Paias Wingti
 Wesley Nukundj
 William Duma
 Koi Trappe
 Win Bakri Daki

Mr Kerenga Kua – Mr Clerk, my point of order is still on the Floor.

The Clerk – Sir, as per your point of order, this is the official list from the Governor-General. So if your name is not on the list then you are a stranger. I only work on the list from the Governor-General.

(Members interjecting!)

Mr Kerenga Kua – The Chief Justice is here so let us not subject him to indignity. Mr Clerk, he occupies a very important office. Let us not subject him to indignity because we should not subject him to all this issue.

(Members interjecting!)

Mr Kerenga Kua – We are not going to entertain this.

The Serjant-At-Arms – Conducts His Honour, the Chief Justice of Papua New Guinea, Sir Salamo Injia to the Speaker's Chair.

PRAYERS

Bishop Danny Bray Guka, Chairman of the Papua New Guinea Council of Churches said Prayers:

'God our loving Heavenly Father, we come before your Heavenly throne and we bow and acknowledge you as the most high who lives forever. We want to thank you because of the 10th national parliament is taking place today. Heavenly Father you have seen the hearts of all those who have been elected to be here Father representing their people.'

05/01

Father God, what is men that you are mindful of him, you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings but crowned him with Glory. Father. God, before this elections the Nation came down on its knees and began to pray for forty days and Lord, we know that we have heard the cries of your people and you have seen their tears. And dear God, this morning I pray, that as the Speaker is elected and the proceeding of electing the Prime Minister begins, Lord I pray that where you are seated may your powerful hand touch and make a decision of who will be leading this beautiful nation of Papua New Guinea.

Lord, we thank you because your word has been placed in this House of Parliament and we believe that you are God Jehovah, the highest God who lives forever, all powerful, loving but fair and this morning God, we acknowledge your presence and as the proceedings begin, we pray that Lord, you will be in the midst of us.

Bless us now Dear God for we ask this prayer in the powerful of Name of Jesus our Lord and our King, in his name we pray', Amen.

Mr Kerenga Kua (Sinesine-Yonggamugl) – With due respect that the Chief Justice is in the Chamber, Mr Clerk, I maintain that my Point of Order be(inaudible) I did not want to raise it at this point in time out of respect for this man and the office that he occupies but you have not accorded us a courtesy of a ruling, therefore, I am duty bound to maintain my Point of Order that you do make a ruling, right now before any other step is taken.

(Members interjecting!)

Mr Clerk – The Writs have been returned by the Governor-General which are on the list that I have read out and this is the official letter that I can table.

(Members interjecting!)

Mr Kerenga Kua – But you cannot do it because there are strangers in that list.

(Members interjecting!)

Mr Clerk – I have read the list already and the Governor-General's List is very clear.

(Members interjecting!)

Mr Kerenga Kua – That list contains some fake results too.

(Members interjecting!)

Mr Clerk – That is not for me to decide.

(Members interjecting!)

Mr Kerenga Kua – We are not going to sit here and watch the Parliamentary Procedures being abused by the fraudulent process that has come this far.

This is unacceptable and right now you are putting the Chief Justice in a conflict of interest. Shame on you! Shame on you!

(Members Interjecting!)

Mr Clerk – I have answered your Point of Order. I will continue.

(Members Interjecting!)

Mr Kerenga Kua – The legality of the five Members that are –

(Members Interjecting!)

Mr Clerk – Honourable Members –

(Members Interjecting!)

Mr Kerenga Kua – We cannot have this, I am sorry but we will not continue until a ruling is made and strangers exit.

(Members Interjecting!)

Mr Clerk – I have already read the names out according to this list and this is the list.

(Members Interjecting!)

Mr Kerenga Kua – Get your name and we will give the other name and we will make a ruling now.

We cannot proceed, Mr Clerk, -

(Members Interjecting!)

Mr Kerenga Kua – Mr Clerk, adjourn the Parliament!
Let's deal with this issue before we proceed, adjourn the Parliament.

(Members interjecting!)

Mr Kerenga Kua – Adjourn the Parliament, use your common sense, this is Papua New Guinea.

(Members interjecting!)

Mr Kerenga Kua – Mr Clerk! Mr Clerk!
Mr Register, more problem are going to come up to the Office of the Judiciary.

(Members interjecting!)

Mr Kerenga Kua – Have pity on Papua New Guinea, adjourn the Parliament!
Adjourn the Parliament, now!

(Members interjecting!)

Mr Belden Namah (Vanim Green) – Adjourn the Parliament, now!

(Members interjecting)

Mr Kerenga Kua – We are not going to sit, adjourn the Parliament!

(Members in the Alliance Coalition protesting by banging on their desks)

Mr Kerenga Kua – Adjourn the Parliament!

(Members interjecting!)

Mr Belden Namah– Papua New Guinea is watching.

(Members interjecting!)

Mr Sam Basil – Ten million people are watching!

(Members interjecting!)

Dr Allan Marat – We cannot facilitate corruption.

(Members interjecting!)

06/01

(Members interjecting and quarrelling!)

Mr Kerenga Kua – Adjourn Parliament!

(Members interjecting and quarrelling!)

Mr Peter O'Neill – You must be man enough to accept defeat.

(Members interjecting!)

Mr Kerenga Kua – We are not going to sit down. We are not going to go outside. We will be here.

(Members interjecting!)

Mr Kerenga Kua – Go ahead! And where will you go.

Mr Clerk, can you begin by ejecting Peter O'Neill.

Mr Peter O'Neill – You vote against me.

Mr Kerenga Kua – We can't vote. We can't meet when strangers are here participating.

This is a Parliament made up of frauds. It's not a Parliament where everything is ad hoc perhaps like in Ialibu-Pangia, this is the Parliament of the Independent Sovereign State of Papua New Guinea.

(Members agreeing!)

Mr Kerenga Kua – Mr Clerk, we are not going to dissolve like anything you have seen before, we are here. Nothing is going to happen, so I suggest Parliament be adjourned and Chief Justice be excused and be recalled within

(Members interjecting!)

Joesph Lelang – We came here to steal the seats. We stole money and we also stole the writ.

(Members interjecting!)

Mr Kerenga Kua – This is the result of what you have created. We are the product of what you have created. This is the mess you created, we are reflecting it. Adjourn the Parliament.

(Members interjecting!)

Mr Kerenga Kua – Nothing is enough until we get the outcome that we want.

The Clerk – Honourable Members, the Chief Justice will now hand me the commission.

Mr Kerenga Kua – Mr Clerk, what did you say? We are not going to accept that. If we are going to officiate or continue with the process we will not accept it.

(Members interjecting!)

Mr Kerenga Kua – Mr Clerk, don't force the agenda. Well I would say the Judiciary has been led into our mess. You have destroyed everything and now the last thing left standing is destroyed respectively. Don't bring the Judiciary into this mess. You don't respect anything and anybody, of all people, you.

(Mr Kerenga Kua interjecting!)

07/01

COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER DECLARATIONS –

CHIEF JUSTICE

The Honourable Chief Justice, Sir Salamo Injia, Chief Justice of Papua New Guinea having been ushered into the Chamber and conducted to the Chair, handed to the Clerk at the Table, a Commission from His Excellency the Governor-General, appointing him to administer the Declarations of Office and Declarations of Loyalty to the Members of the TENTH Parliament.

(Members interjecting!)

Mr Kerenga Kua – Mr Clerk you are not listening.

The Clerk read the Commission.

TABLING OF RETURNED WRITS

The Clerk laid on the Table, the Return of 106 Writs for the General Elections held from Thursday, 20 April to Saturday, 8 July 2017.

The said Returns showed that for the following electorates the following Members were elected:

Electorates

Bougainville Provincial
Central Bougainville
North Bougainville
South Bougainville
Abau
Goilala
Kairuku-Hiri
Rigo
Chuave
Gumine
Karimui-Nomane
Kerowagi
Sinasina-Yonggamugl
East New Britain Provincial

Members

Joe Lera
Simon Dumarinu
William Naki
Timothy Masiu
Puka Temu
William Samb
Peter Namea Isoaimo
Lekwa Gure
Wera Mori
Nick Kuman
Geoffrey Kama
Bari Palma
Kerenga Kua
Nakikus Konga

Gazelle
 Kokopo
 Pomio
 Rabaul
 East Sepik Provincial
 Ambunti-Drekikir
 Angoram
 Maprik
 Wewak
 Wosera-Gau
 Yangoru-Saussia
 Daulo
 Goroka
 Henganofi
 Kainantu
 Lufa
 Obura-Wonenara
 Okapa
 Unggai-Bena
 Enga Provincial
 Kompam-Ambum
 Lagaip-Porgera
 Wabag
 Wapenamanda
 Gulf Provincial
 Kerema
 Kikori
 Hela Provincial
 Komo-Margarima
 Koroba-Lake Kapiago
 Tari-Pori
 Jiwaka Provincial
 Angalimp-South Wahgi
 Jimi
 North Wahgi
 Madang Provincial
 Bogia
 Madang
 Middle Ramu
 Rai-Coast
 Sumkar
 Usino-Bundi
 Manus Provincial
 Manu
 Milne Bay Provincial
 Alotau
 Esa'ala
 Kiriwina-Goodenough
 Samarai-Murua
 Morobe Provincial

Jelta Wong
 Emil Tamur
 Elias Kapavore
 Allan Marat
 Allan Bird
 Johnson Wapunai
 Salio Waipo
 John Simon
 Kevin Isifu
 Joseph Jerry Yopy-yopy
 Richard Maru
 Pogio Gahate
 Henry Ame
 Robert Atiyafa
 Johnson Tuke
 Moriape Kavori
 Mehrre Minne Kipefa
 Saki Hacky Soloma
 Benny Allen
 Peter Ipatas
 John Pundari
 Tomait Kapili
 Lino Tom
 Rimbink Pato
 Chris Haiveta
 Richard Mendani
 Soroi Marepo Eoe
 Philip Undialu
 Manasseh Makiba
 Petrus Thomas
 James Marape
 William Tongamp
 Joe Kuli
 Wake Goi
 Fabian Pok
 Peter Yama
 Robert Naguri
 Brian Kramer
 Jonny Alonk
 Peter Gemungo Sapia
 Chris Yer Nangoi
 Jimmy Uguro
 Charlie Benjamin
 Job Pomat
 John Luke Crittin
 Charles Abel
 Davis Steven
 Douglas Tomuriesa
 Isi Henry Leonard
 Ginson Saonu

Bulolo
 Finschhafen
 Huon Gulf
 Kabwum
 Lae
 Markham
 Menyamya
 Nawae
 Tewai-Siassi
 National Capital District
 Moresby North-East
 Moresby North-West
 Moresby South
 New Ireland Provincial
 Kavieng
 Namatanai
 Northern Provincial
 Ijivitari
 Sohe
 Ialibu-Pangia
 Imbongu
 Kagua-Erave
 Mendi
 Nipa-Kutubu
 West New Britain Provincial
 Kandrian-Gloucester
 Talasea
 West Sepik Provincial
 Aitape-Lumi
 Nuku
 Teleformin
 Vanimu-Green River
 Western Provincial
 Middle Fly
 North Fly
 South Fly
 Western Highlands Provincial
 Dei
 Hagen
 Mul-Baiyer
 Tambul-Nebilyer

Sam Basil
 Renbo Paita
 Ross Seymour
 Patrick Basa
 John Rosso
 Koni Iguan
 Thomas Pelika
 Kennedy Wenge
 Kobby Bomareo
 Powes Parkop
 John Kaupa
 Mekere Morauta
 Justin Tkatchenko
 Julius Chan
 Ian Ling-Stuckey
 Water Schnaubelt
 Garry Juffa
 Richard Masere
 Henry Johns Amuli
 Peter O'Neill
 Pila Niningi
 Wesley Raminai
 Michael Nali
 Pesab Jefferey Komal
 Sasindran Muthuwel
 Joseph Lelang
 Francis Galia Maneke
 Tony Wouwou
 Patrick Pruaitch
 Joe Sungi
 Solan Mirisim
 Belden Namah
 Toboi Awi Yoto
 Roy Biyama
 James Donald
 Sekie Agisa
 Paias Wingti
 Westly Nukundj
 William Duma
 Koi Trappe
 Win Bakri Daki

Mr Kerenga Kua – You have to exclude the five electorates.

DECLARATIONS OF OFFICE AND DECLARATIONS OF LOYALTY

The Members whose names are above set forth made and subscribed to the Declaration of Office and the Declaration of Loyalty before his Honour, the Chief Justice, Sir Salamo Injia, except Chimbu Provincial, Kundiawa-Gembogl, Eastern Highlands Provincial, Kandep, Southern Highlands Provincial Electorates.

08/01

Members elect subscribing to the Declarations of Office and Declarations of Loyalty

09/01

Members elect subscribing to the Declarations of Office and Declarations of Loyalty

10/01

Members elect subscribing to the Declarations of Office and Declarations of Loyalty

11/01

Members elect subscribing to the Declarations of Office and Declarations of Loyalty

12/01

Members elect subscribing to the Declarations of Office and Declarations of Loyalty

13/01

Members elect subscribing to the Declarations of Office and Declarations of Loyalty

14/01

Members elect subscribing to the Declarations of Office and Declarations of Loyalty

15/01

Members elect subscribing to the Declarations of Office and Declarations of Loyalty

The Chief Justice retired after completion of subscriptions to Declarations of Office and Declarations of Loyalty.

ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER

The Clerk – Honourable Members, the next item of business is the Election of the Speaker by Exhaustive Secret Ballot.

In accordance with *Standing Orders*, I now call for nominations.

Mr JAMES MARAPE (Tari) – I propose to Parliament for its Speaker, Mr Job Pomat, and move –

That he take the Chair of Parliament as Speaker

Mr MICHAEL NALI (Mendi) – I second the motion.

Mr JOB POMAT (Manus) – I accept the nomination.

Mr BELDEN NAMAHA (Vanimo-Green River) – I propose to Parliament for its Speaker, Dr. Allan Marat, and move –

That he take the Chair of Parliament as Speaker.

Mr SAM BASIL (Bulolo) – I second the motion.

16/01

The Clerk - The time for proposals has expired. In accordance with the practice of Parliament, the bells will be rung and a ballot taken. Ballot papers will be distributed and Members are asked to write on the paper the name of the candidate for whom they wish to vote. We will now distribute the ballot papers.

The ballot have been collected and counted.

17/01

JOB POMAT	–	60
Dr ALLAN MARAT	–	46

Mr Job Pomat elected Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER – I wish to express my grateful thanks for the high honour that the Parliament has been pleased to confer upon me.

Mr PETER O'NEILL (Ialibu-Pangia) – Thankyou Mr Speaker, on behalf of this side of the House today, I express our sincere congratulations to you and of course the good people of Manus for your elevation to the position of the Speaker of this honourable Parliament.

Mr Speaker, I also extend our appreciation to Dr Allan Marat, a very capable and good candidate who has put out a good contest for this position. And let me express in this spirit, Mr Speaker, our appreciation to the out-going former Speaker of the honourable Parliament, Hon. Theo Zurenuoc, who served this honourable Parliament with highest distinction.

Mr Speaker, I know that you are Christian principled man and you will guide this Parliament well. And we on this side of the Parliament have trust and confidence in your ability to uphold the integrity of this Parliament.

Mr Speaker, we the members on this side of the Parliament nominated you to this position but you are a man of own thinking and you will continue to maintain a level of fairness from the Chair to both sides of the Parliament so that we can continue to maintain healthy debates on issues that are affecting our nation. So we look forward to working with you over the course of next five years.

Once again, I congratulate yourself, your family and the good people of Manus.

Mr CHARLIE BENJAMIN (Manus) – Thankyou Mr Speaker, as the Governor of Manus Province, on behalf of myself and my family, I want to thank you as the Speaker of the National Parliament.

I am confident you are capable of this job and you will be fair to both sides of the Parliament so that it will operate as it supposed to be.

I am also happy that the two candidates are from New Guinea Islands contested for this chair. And that shows that our colleague members of this Parliament have full confidence and trust to New Guinea Islands Region and elected one of us to be the Speaker of this great Parliament

18/01

I take this time to say thank you for your recognition. I also take this time, on behalf of my people of Manus to, say thank you, that the Parliament see fit to elect my open Member representing the people of Manus to become Speaker of this House, on behalf of all the people of Manus wish to say thank you, to you all.

Mr PATRICK PRUAITCH (Aitape-Lumi) – Thank you, Mr Speaker, on behalf of this side of the House to, first of all welcome you back to this House as Member of Parliament for Manus Open and I believe that on your second re-election to this House you got this job, I wish to congratulate you.

I know that you are an impartial person and you will carry out the job of a Speaker in a diligent way.

At the same time I wish to thank Dr Alan Marat, Member for Rabaul for participating by representing this side of the House in the candidature of this position.

Once again, I wish to congratulate to on your re-election and also your elevation to this position.

Thank you.

Mr KENNEDY WENGE (Nawaeb) – Thank you, Mr Speaker, I also, in representing my people of Nawaeb thank the Parliament for electing of you for both sides, not for one side only or any political party but as a referee for this Parliament.

I also take this time to thank the former Members such as myself, who has been re-elected to this Parliament to bring class to this Parliament.

First of all, Sir Mekere Morauta, Member for Moresby North West who we all know is the real driver of this Parliament who has returned, also included are the Members for Markham, Menyamya, and others who have returned, I commend all of us for returning.

Many new Members also came in, out of the 111, there are six or seven still to come, I am pleased that we are all here to work together to make this Parliament a successful Parliament for Papua New Guinea.

To conclude, Mr Speaker, I am happy that you will keep this Parliament alive, from tomorrow onwards, we have not elected the government yet and so, Member for Ialibu-Pangia is not Prime Minister as yet. You have to wait until tomorrow or later this afternoon when we will see whether changes will happen or you will continue. So let us not confuse Papua New Guinea.

We have already appointed the Speaker who has the power to appoint a time for us to appoint the Prime Minister so there might be changes, we may have a new government.

We all know the debates in the Parliament, the people of Papua New Guinea are watching and they are crying for change so you have to when we will elect our Prime Minister, whether it will be this afternoon or tomorrow, the Speaker will set a time for us to vote the Prime Minister.

Thank you to this Parliament and congratulations to the new government.

Dr ALAN MARAT (Rabaul) – Thank you, Speaker elect. I stand to congratulate you for mastering the confidence of the majority of Members of this Parliament.

I just wish to express a minor point of view that in the past we've had some slight struggles with the Chair and so let me remind the Honourable Speaker elect that we are looking

forward to the strict observance of the doctrine of the separation of powers between the Legislature, the National Executive and the Judicial arm of this Government.

19/01

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members of Parliament, I am humbled to accept this job as your Speaker for the Tenth Parliament. It is a mammoth task.

I am planning to be firm and bring back the integrity of this Parliament. I need assistance from both sides of the House which boasts very experienced men who can guide me in discharging my duties so that our people of Papua New Guinea, who are the real owners, can see that we have done our job the way it should be done in their services.

With that, I wish to profusely thank all of you in this House for acknowledging my presence.

With that, I wish to say that it has been ascertained that it will be His Excellency's pleasure to receive me at the Government House forthwith.

The Parliament is now suspended until the ringing of the Bells.

Sitting suspended.

20/01

TABLING OF THE COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER DECLARATION –

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, I have to report that I this day presented myself to his Excellency the Governor-General as the choice of the Parliament and that his Excellency was kind enough to congratulate me on my election as Speaker, where upon I made my declaration of office as Speaker.

His Excellency also presented to me a Commission authorising me to administer to new members the declaration of loyalty and the declaration of office. The Commission reads as follows:

The *Constitution* to the Speaker of the National Parliament greetings; whereas the *Constitution* of Papua New Guinea by section 249 provides amongst other things, that every Member of the National Parliament shall, before entering upon the duties or exercising any of the powers of his office make the Declaration of Office and the Declaration of Loyalty before a person appointed for the purposes by the Head of State in the form set out in Schedule 3 and Section 6 respectively of the *Constitution*.

Now therefore, I, *Grand Chief, Sir Bob Dadae, Grand Chief of Logohu, Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight of the Order of Saint John, Governor-General*, by virtue of the powers conferred by the *Constitution*, and all other powers me enabling, acting with, and in accordance with, the advice of the National Executive Council, hereby commission the Speaker of the National Parliament to administer the Declarations of those Members of the National Parliament who may have not already made the Declarations since their election to the National Parliament.

Dated this Thursday 18 of May, 2017.

I now lay the Commission on the table.

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members of the Tenth Parliament. It is with great pleasure and sincere gratitude. I humbly stand before you as the duly elected Speaker, of this honourable Parliament to make this brief statement.

Let me at the outset for sincere thankyou to each and every individual Member of this Parliament for giving me the mandate to be your Speaker, for this term of Parliament.

Honourable Members whether or not you voted for me to be elected as your Speaker is not a paramount significance. But the processes and the systems through and by which I have been elected truly and surely demonstrate the vibrant and thriving but young democracy that we adopted some 40 years ago and continue to enjoy to this day.

It is my humble prayer that as elected representatives we will together continue to build and strengthen the democracy that we have embedded into our system of governance. The trust and confidence you have bestowed upon me through the spirit of free choice together with my ability to manage the legislature is and will be a very challenging one. It will surely be a huge task and challenge for me to exercise impartiality but I truly have no choice but to do so for the sake of fairness and in upholding the integrity of both my office and this honourable Parliament.

Honourable Members, paramount of all is seeking your confidence both on the floor during sessions and perhaps outside of this Parliament to enable a healthy and transparent working environment and conduct during my term as the Speaker.

In conclusion, I thank you all once again for the confidence you have entrusted in me to be in this Chair and I humbly trust and believe that during my term in the tenth Parliament it will be a constructive and fruitful one and together we serve the national interest of our beloved country.

God bless Papua New Guinea

21/01

ELECTION OF THE PRIME MINISTER

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, the next item of business is the Election of the Prime Minister. Honourable Members, under *Section 76 of the Organic Law of the Integrity of the Political Parties and Candidates*, His Excellency the Governor-General is required to invite the registered political party or parties with the highest number of Members elected in the general election to form the government.

In accordance with the requirement, the Governor-General has informed me that he has invited the People's National Congress Party to form the Government. His Excellency's invitation which was gazetted on *Friday, 28 July, 2017* reads, and I quote:

'I Grand Chief, Sir Bob Dadae, Grand Chief of Logohu, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and St. George, Knight of the Order of St. John, Governor-General by virtue of the powers conferred by Section 63 of the Organic Law on the Integrity of the Political Parties and Candidates and all the other powers me enabling, acting in accordance with the advice of the Electoral Commission here invite the People's National Congress Party, being a registered political party which has endorsed and won the greatest number of candidates declared elected in the 2017 National Elections to form the Government.'

Dated this 28 day of July, 2017

Signed: Bob Dadae, Governor General.

In accordance with this advice and the requirements of the *Organic Law on the Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates* and the provisions of the *Standing Orders*, I now call upon the People's National Congress Party to nominate a candidate for election of the Prime Minister.

Sir PUKA TEMU (Abau) – I, Puka Temu, Member for Abau and a member of the People's National Congress Party nominate Mr Peter O'Neill as the Parliament's choice for Prime Minister.

Mr WILLIAM DUMA (Hagen) – I, William Duma, Member for Hagen second the motion.

Mr SPEAKER –Honourable Peter O'Neill, do you accept the nomination?

Mr PETER O'NEILL (Ialibu-Pangia) – Mr Speaker, with great honour and humility I accept the nomination.

Mr JAMES MARAPE (Tari-Pori) – Mr Speaker, I move that nominations now be closed.

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, the Parliament will now vote and those Members who support Honourable Peter O'Neill, move to my right and those Members who do not support the nomination move to my left.

22/01

Voting in progress

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, the result for the open ballot is as follows:

The Parliament voted (the Speaker, **Mr Job Pomat** in the Chair) –

AYES – 60

NOES – 46

Mr Peter O'Neill is declared Prime Minister-elect of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea.

23/01

On behalf of my people of Manus I congratulate you for your re-election as the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea. As the Prime Minister-elect for this beautiful country, you will be leading this country again for the next five years. A lot has been said through the social media and on the streets. You have also confirmed that we need to correct those mistakes that have taken place.

Once again, I congratulate you.

PRESENTATION OF PRIME MINISTER-ELECT TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members I have to ascertain that it will be His Excellency's pleasure to receive the Prime Minister-elect at the Government House forthwith.

The Parliament is suspended until the ringing of the bells.

24/01

Mr PETER O'NEILL (Ialibu-Pangia) – Firstly, I would like to congratulate you Mr Speaker, on your election as the Speaker of the 10th Parliament. It is an honour be elected by this Parliament and the people of this country to be elected as the Prime Minister of this country.

Mr Speaker, we are proud to form the Government of the 10th Parliament of Papua New Guinea and now that we have formed the Government, we won't be discouraged by the views that are different to ours. We want to encourage debates that will continue to unite our nation. We will be a government that listens more, talks less, works harder at every opportunity. We will be a government that learns from its mistakes.

I would like to take this opportunity to also congratulate each Member who has been elected to this Parliament. And to all the Members of Parliament who are no longer with us; I commend your service to this nation. This year we have had a very vibrant election, while our elections are robust, the successful outcome is a demonstration of the strength of our democracy. There has been many challenges in this election but this has been one of the most peaceful elections in many parts of our country.

Mr Speaker, it has been an enormous undertaking for election officials, scrutineers, and members of our disciplinary forces and everyone who have been involved in the election process. There have been difficulties in the administrative and organisational level as well. And again as this government commits itself to a full independent review of the electoral process that will provide us with the opportunity for all stakeholders to share their views. I commend the Electoral Commissioner, the Commissioner of Police and all those who were involved in this effort.

I would like to further, thank the international observers and those from Papua New Guinea who have been participating in the election process as well. Over the past three months of this election, we have listened to the people. They have spoken through the ballot box. And as we form this Government today, it is not a time to celebrate, we are humbled by the mandate that has been given to us and now it is time to get back to work.

Mr Speaker, in Alotau this week; members of our coalition have developed a *Second Alotau Accord*, under the theme "Strongim Wok na Sindaun bilong ol pipol". We have agreed upon a substantial set of policies that are going to be delivered to our nation over the next five years. Our coalition partners and members have agreed that the people of this nation want a Government that will cater for the wellbeing through economic empowerment. They want a Government that will deliver quality services in education, health care and infrastructure. And our people want improved security, and the highest level of good governance and transparency. We promised to deliver what our people want. We also promised to continue improving the quality of our free education program and continue to expand on our universal health care program. We will continue to build capacity around our disciplined services by strengthening their leadership, so that we can improve the law and order issues throughout our country.

Mr Speaker, again our government will maintain a focus on the critical infrastructure in the country that we must deliver if the country has any chance of moving forward in terms of development.

25/01

We want to build more roads, more highways, hospitals, airports, wharves and other public infrastructures right throughout the country. Of course in the coming years of this Government, we will further extend the respect and the responsibility to all the provinces of our country. We will facilitate a greater de-centralisation and autonomy by developing more power from Waigani to the districts and the provinces. These are the central pillars that bind together the 84 commitments that our Government has made through the second Alotau Accord.

Mr Speaker, regardless of the outcome of this election and where we sit on this Floor of Parliament, our people and nations interest must be our common goals; no government is ever perfect and delivers policies without challenges.

In our last government we admit that we could have done things better and more improvements, but Mr Speaker, we will continue to be a government that governs for all our citizens and not only for people who supported us. We must unite all our people for the betterment of our country.

Mr Speaker, there is no doubt that PNG is changing and is changing for the better. So, that this government must continue to dream big and do our very best for our people. We will draw from our past and work harder for our future. And again, Mr Speaker, I congratulate all the Members of Parliament who have been elected to this honourable Parliament. I thank you for the support in electing our new government and let me stress here that our doors are always open and we embrace your constructive views and look forward to your support as we advance our nations interest forward, thankyou Mr Speaker.

Sir JULIUS CHAN (New Ireland) – Mr Speaker, I want to first of all congratulate the Prime Minister, Mr Peter O'Neill for being elected for the third time. And that's almost setting the record after the founder of this nation as the longest serving member of Parliament in the Commonwealth.

I am touched by the Prime Ministers statement. It's one of recognising some of the errors of the past and looking to the future.

Admitting it, we are all humans; people sometimes think that we are angles. Mr Speaker, we are not angles and we are not devil sider but we are somewhere in between. We make mistakes and we wait for the people to correct them.

The Integrity Laws on Political Parties is very clear and this Parliament passed it and Peter O'Neill was called to form the Government. The spirit of that law is that; he's got the highest majority expressed by the people and we got to respect the spirit of the law; that is why the Peoples Progress Party stood behind it right from the start.

It goes without saying if the commanders themselves don't obey the law then how you expect the soldiers to follow the law. We make laws and we must follow it and the spirit of the law is the recognise of the party with the greatest numbers and Peter O'Neill got it and PPP came in to support the law by upholding the Integrity of Political Parties and the Organic Law. And we make no mistake about it but very proud of it. But I am somewhat sadden by the fact that this Parliament is not represented by people who may have opposing views.

26/01

Even the Blues and the Maroons, they win and they lose sometimes and if we don't have opposing view or some other views that the Prime Minister can absorb because he has now promised to make a change.

The announcement by the Prime Minister today is a very big step forward in decentralising the power and making it known to the people of Papua New Guinea and I am very proud about it.

You know, as I have said, we are not angels and those who think that they are, let them throw the first stone.

We know that there are problems and we are committed to solving those problems. We need to solve the economic situation to restore confidence in our people. We need to liberalise, we need to get the Central Bank in place.

There are too many autonomous institutions in this country are not helping our government to do the right thing so they need to come under your control too.

So, Prime Minister, I think we should not hesitate to move forward and revolutionise the whole banking and monitoring system to restore liberalisation in foreign exchange so that there is a free flow of money back and forth so that people will have confidence.

I think the statement today is a bold statement and I support you, you're a young man but you've got a very brilliant mind.

I wish to say this because I've been in that position before, Right Honourable Paias Wingti and Sir Mekere Morauta and many of you have held this position before will know that it is not easy to govern. It is very difficult to govern. It's a question of priority.

A lot of people don't see the tremendous development that has taken place in the last few years and I congratulate this young man. I would hesitate because in my time we are run and controlled by the bureaucrats.

But times have changed and maybe some of the systems and institutions that we now have cannot control the volume of revenue that are coming in. So, I congratulate the Prime Minister for taking some bold steps.

Sometimes, Mr Speaker, it is better to take the wrong road than standing still in the same place because if you are standing still you cannot move.

At least, if you are taking the wrong road you are moving. And he has taken a road, it is now time to correct the path to make sure that prosperity is restored.

So, again I am supporting the Prime Minister because he has recognised some of these problems and he is prepared to move towards them, the question of ownership, the opportunity to centralise and others. Those are great things and I think I have no doubt in my mind that I am supporting the right leader and I am very sorry that the people on the other side are not here because we want to hear the reasons, the cause behind them why they are not here.

The people who voted them in must feel that they are lost now. They don't have any spokesmen for them.

Before I close, and I do not want to take up too much time because the message is very clear.

I too want to congratulate you, Mr Speaker. It is not an easy job to be a speaker, it's a sacrificial job.

But, I heard your first statement to this House and I am very confident that you will embrace both side of the Parliament and I just plea, let us restore dignity to this Parliament, let us operate on time, and let us be efficient because the rest of the nation will march to the beat of your drum and the drum of the Prime Minister.

So, I'd like to see more debates in the Parliament. Mr Speaker, if you can tolerate it so that the representatives of the people can exhaust themselves on the Floor of Parliament.

I think the size of the government is just right, as far as what we have now. It is quite a big majority. It is just right and we don't really need to dilute it any more.

27/01

We've got people here, old Members, new Members and those with experience. You can lead us. Have the confidence that we can do it. We make a mistake, we'll fix it up ourselves.

So, I am looking for a new dawn contained in the Prime Minister's statement, it's a new dawn and I am very confident that whatever we have pervert, somewhat meandering in the past, we will find the true light shining to a great future for our country.

Mr WILLIAM DUMA (Hagen) – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity on behalf of the people of Hagen and the United Resources Party which I lead to congratulate the Prime Minister who is also the Member for Ialibu-Pangia and Parliamentary Leader of the People's National Congress Party for being elected again as Prime Minister of this country.

Mr Speaker, as a leader who has been with the Prime Minister when he was first elected in 2011 as Prime Minister of this country, I have been able to observe whilst working with him and being near him and I can say that, given a country such as this where you have a paradise of a country which is blessed abundantly with natural resources and yet there are so many conflicting factors because there are so many different ethnic groups and more than 700 different languages. That is a country by its own definition is one of the most complex countries to manage in this world but I can say that our Prime Minister was able to put a team together and was able to govern and lead it to the best of his ability.

Mr Speaker, halfway through the last government of our Prime Minister the commodity prices suddenly dropped and the economy was struggling and yet our Prime Minister was able to set in motion plans which still enabled the last government to put out infrastructure projects. And to continue to deliver very important basic services such as free health and free education. He was able to manage this country and I commend the Prime Minister.

At the same time, I also must remind our Prime Minister that returning the trust and confidence of a very complex country like Papua New Guinea demands 100 per cent dedication and loyalty and I must remind our Prime Minister that this is a country that is a very difficult country to run.

Mr Speaker, our Prime Minister is blessed with so many leaders around him. When you have founding fathers such as the Right Honourable Sir Julius Chan who leads a very important coalition partner, the People's Progress Party and Of course, Right Honourable Paias Wingti and other very senior statesmen of this country, coupled with a number of deputy prime ministers such as Sir Puka Temu, the Honourable John Pundari, the Honourable Michael Nali and the Honourable Chris Haiveta. And more so, supported by very abled and experienced ministers in this Cabinet.

Mr Speaker, how can we go wrong? I don't see us going wrong because the Prime Minister himself is a capable man and we have given him our confidence and trust.

Mr Speaker, I must remind the Prime Minister that it is not a right, it's a privilege that we have given him and we are here to give him the support that he needs.

Speaking on behalf of the United Resources Party, I echo the sentiments raised by Sir Julius Chan and that is the Integrity of political Parties Law which all of us as Parliamentarians passed simply calls for us to recognise the party that is able to muster more numbers than any other parties after a national election.

Of course, Mr Speaker, as you know, the People's National Congress came to this Parliament with the highest number of Members and as leaders, we must recognise and respect the laws that we passed ourselves in this Parliament.

As Leader of the United Resources Party, I was obliged to respect that law and that is why I recognised the Party led by our Prime Minister and despite many, many other distracting factors.

28/01

We were legally or morally obliged to follow and respect the wishes of the people. That is that they selected the People's National Congress Party by returning more of their candidates as MPs than any other party.

Mr Speaker without much further delay, I take this opportunity to remind our Prime Minister that we are here to support him. He is surrounded by very able leaders, former Prime Ministers, former, deputy Prime Ministers, and many experienced cabinet ministers. Together we can plot the way forward for our country.

Finally as we all know, our country's economy needs to be fixed and I think the Prime Minister is well aware of that and I know he is looking at it very seriously. In the next couple of months or so he should be able come up with a plan that will rescue our economy and continue to provide the services that our people need. Once again I congratulate you Prime Minister and I look forward to working with you. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr POWES PARKOP (National Capital District) – Thank you Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to join in congratulating our Prime Minister.

Firstly, I want to congratulate you Mr Speaker on behalf of the people of the National Capital District in which this Parliament is seated. Having a person who went to school with you, knowing your background, your family and your history, I am very confident that you will uphold the integrity of this House. Make sure that it is fair and functions well and performs its responsibilities well to all our people on both sides of the House. I therefore congratulate you on behalf of the people of National Capital District and the Social Democratic Party.

I also join other leaders of the other political parties to congratulate the Member for Ialibu-Pangia who is the leader of the People's National Congress Party and our Prime Minister, Honourable Peter O'Neill.

It is not easy to win elections and in this election there has been a lot of challenges. A lot of words, allegations and lies have been said going to and from. But relatively it has been an even playing field.

Our people need to know that in the history of our Parliament since 1975, ruling parties don't perform well in elections and many incumbents lose their seat which could be about 50 per cent or 60 per cent. But to their credit and to the credit of the Prime Minister, the People's National Congress has returned with the majority of about 27 MPs and that speaks for itself.

Mr Speaker, even though there has been a lot of allegations going to and from lets us look at the record and our people. PNC has lost the deputy Prime Minister in the elections, the deputy Party Leader, the Attorney General in this election so it can't be that PNC has manipulated anything according to the lies going around to have its senior Members of Parliament lose their elections.

I want to appeal to our people that it was relatively an even playing field and the PNC and the Prime Minister deserve to win and be returned as the Prime Minister. Despite the hard economic times, despite the low economic growth which came down from about 12 per cent to about 2 per cent. Despite our budget going into deficit the Government under Peter O'Neill between 2012 and 2017 delivered unprecedented development, infrastructure, services, tuition free-education, free health care and other developments all around the country.

29/01

We had hospitals being upgraded, airports being built, runways being built which was never being done before. This is why People's National Congress Party deserves to come back and the Prime Minister deserves to win again. Despite all the criticism let us put credit where it is due. And compare that to the record of the past governments.

So, Mr Prime Minister, I congratulate you and you deserve to be the Prime Minister but we face a lot of challenges and our brothers on the other side are not here because they are passionate about this challenges. As you can see there will be a compatible opponents and opposition, they are already showing it so we cannot be complacent and must start to work and I say thank you.

Now, that the election is over so we must start to govern and work to deliver and I am thankful to the Prime Minister, Mr Speaker and all our coalition partners that we have come up with an Accord that gives us the way forward.

Getting the economy right is the biggest challenge. Without a growing economy or revenue we cannot deliver the expectation of our people, infrastructure and services that is the biggest challenge and we must take it on to revive and grow the economy and have a sustainable economy.

Mr Prime Minister you have the help and we have given the mandate to you today that we are here to support you. You have veterans, young emerging leaders who are here, many with very diverse backgrounds in so many fields that are here to help you and we your coalition partners are here to help you.

As I have mentioned, you have a compatible Opposition so we cannot be complacent but we in the Government, your coalition members are going to hold you to high standards because our people deserve that high standard too. We must overcome the many challenges that come so there is no time to waste, we must create more opportunities for our people, give hope to our young people. Those with other opinions to come over so that we have the same passion, the same commitment that we are prepared to take on these challenges.

Otherwise, Mr Speaker, Mr Prime Minister, I thank you for accepting the nomination and being elected again to run our country. Times are tough and it has been tough but it is a characteristic of a strong and good leader to stand up and face the challenge like you withstood the challenge in the last term. So, I congratulate you and I thank you and we are ready to take the challenge, we are ready to work with you to deliver the aspirations of the people.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Motion (by **Mr Peter O'Neill**) agreed to –

That the Parliament at its rising, adjourn to Tuesday 22 August 2017 at 10a.m. for the Official Opening by the Governor-General of Papua New Guinea.

INDUCTION FOR NEW MEMBERS –

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, I advise that there will an Induction Program held over four days specifically for your benefit, it is set for the 14th -18th of this month. The Induction Program will involve divisions of the Parliamentary Services in partnership with major external stakeholders such as the Ombudsman Commission, UNDP and certain Government Departmental and Private Sector Institutions. It is important that the Members attend this program for the obvious benefit of knowing who to go to, to answer some of your questions. The Induction Program is an initiative of the Clerk of Parliament and it is held as

part of the activities to open a new Parliament so we are all invited to participate in this program.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (by **Mr Peter O'Neill**) agreed to –
That the Parliament do now adjourn

The Parliament adjourned at 5.05 p.m..