

SECOND DAY

Tuesday 22 August 2017

DRAFT HANSARD

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
CORRECTIONS TO DAILY DRAFT HANSARD

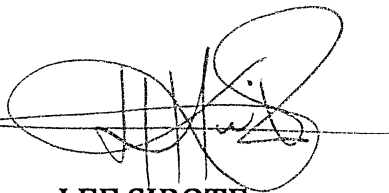
The Draft Hansard is uncorrected. It is also privileged. Members have one week from the date of this issue of Draft Hansard in which to make corrections to their speeches. Until the expiration of this one week period, Draft Hansard must not be quoted as final and accurate report of the debates of the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

Corrections maybe marked on a photocopy of the Daily Draft Hansard and lodged at the Office of the Principal Parliamentary Reporter, A1 - 23 (next to the Security Control Room).

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

Amendments cannot be accepted over the phone.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LEE SIROTE', is written over a horizontal line.

LEE SIROTE

Acting Principal Parliamentary Reporter

SECOND DAY

Tuesday 22 August 2017

The Speaker (**Mr Job Pomat**) took the chair at 10.45a.m..

ADMISSION OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY

Mr SPEAKER – With the concurrence of the honourable Members, I will invite the Chief Justice and Members of the judiciary to be seated on the Floor of Parliament.

Motion – That Chief Justice and Members of the judiciary to be seated on the Floor of Parliament – agreed to.

With the concurrence of the Parliament, the Chief Justice of Papua New Guinea and Members of the Judiciary were admitted into the Chamber.

02/02

ENTERANCE OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

His Excellency the Governor-General, **Sir Bob Dadae**, entered the Chamber and was seated at the Speaker Chair.

PRAYERS

Rev. Roger Joseph of the Papua New Guinea Council of Churches was invited to say Prayers:

‘We bow in humble adoration before your grace oh Lord. God who is the creator of all Universe. God who created the Universe and made human kind, the cream of creation because you destined human kind who was created in your likeness to resemble the kingdom of God in Heaven here on earth.

So down the ages oh God, human kind have formed communities, human kind have formed societies, they have built nations and regions and only then we knew you as God of Israel, but today oh God we know you as God of Papua New Guinea who is the builder of our sovereign nation Papua New Guinea.

As these are specifically elected leaders of this nation Papua New Guinea gathered together today to open the Tenth Parliament oh God, we pay tribute to the leaders of this sovereign nation who led this nation through many struggles, culminating in the ending of the ninth parliament which we witnessed two months ago.

We can only say thank you God for the strength you gave to our past leaders, who chattered the waters through flowing currents.

Oh God of Papua New Guinea for the people of Papua New Guinea, the tenth parliament marks the end of the forty years struggles in the wilderness and the beginning of the entrance into the promise land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

As we say thank you God for the specifically set apart leaders of this nation who as of this day will play the role of Joshua, we pray that you will bless them with passion, to serve with love and dignity becoming catalyst of prosperity and becoming catalyst of change.

May you make your presence known today as the Tenth Parliament will be officially opened through speeches and following this, through guided debates to be administered by the Speaker and decisions to be reached by the Members of this Parliament, not only of today but for the duration of the Tenth Parliament.

So we thank you God almighty, God of Papua New Guinea forever and ever, so be it, so be it. Amen'.

03/02

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER

Mr SPEAKER – Your Excellency, Lady Hannah, Your Honour Grand Chief Justice, Honourable Members of Parliament and distinguished guests. I welcome Your Excellency on behalf of the Tenth National Parliament and the people of Papua New Guinea for their representatives in Parliament.

I take this opportunity to pay homage to the services of all those former Members who were unsuccessful in the last election. Much was achieved by the last Parliament but many challenges lay ahead of all members of Parliament.

Our people have spoken through the ballot boxes in an open democratic election. I am sure that the Honourable Members will agree that it is now our duty to try and maintain the tradition of loyalty and devoted service to our country, through our term in office.

Your Excellency, you will be aware of the challenges that we are facing. It is often said that Papua New Guinea is a country of many tribes and ethnic groups; we must put aside our differences, if we are to fully overcome the challenges and meet the expectations of our people who have placed us here to act on their behalf.

Sir, we are aware of your distinguished services to our country and it is appropriate that you are here in person to open the 10th Parliament, which is honoured to be addressed by you. I now invite you to formally address and to open the 10th National Parliament. It is a tradition in the Westminster system of Parliament that you may seat and address the Parliament.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT – ADDRESS BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

Sir BOB DADAE – Speaker of the National Parliament, Honourable Job Pomat, the Prime Minister, Mr Peter O'Neill, Leader of the Opposition Honourable Patrick Pruaitch,, Ministers, governors and Members of Parliament, Chief Justice and all the Judges of the National and Supreme Court, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen;

On behalf of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, it is my honour to preside over this official opening of the 10th National Parliament and to welcome new and continuing parliamentarians following the recent completed National General Elections. At the outset, I wish to offer my warm congratulations to all of you elected Members of this Parliament and the Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill and his majority party, the People's National Congress which I invited to form the new government on Wednesday 2nd August 2017.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the entire constituencies, all 111 in the country for demonstrating their constitutional and democratic right in mandating all to the 10th National Parliament of our beautiful and diverse country.

04/02

You have been given the mandate by our people to lead and make right decisions for our nation in the coming years.

The reality is, as Members of Parliament, the expectations of the people will require in some instances your independent and innovative thinking to complement your mandated

responsibilities. This is very important in bringing much needed goods and services to our people, especially to the majority who live in the rural areas.

Despite the many challenges we experienced and were confronted with during the election period, the democratic process was evident and prevailed. In this context, I want to acknowledge the work of the Electoral Commission, joint security forces, domestic and international observers, relevant government officials and the many election volunteers whose hard work and untimely efforts enabled a successful national election.

The confidence displayed by the voters our the Parliamentarians here in this Chamber today comes with the believe and conviction that their Members of Parliament will articulate and deliver on the respective mandates and work for the collective wellbeing and common goals of our people who are now being better informed and educated in the electoral process, thus a new voting trend, amongst the voting population which present a daunting task for those seeking re-election to public office.

Therefore, the message here is that one must be diligent, transparent, accountable, honest and more importantly build the trust and confidence as you deliver to your people. Personal integrity, sense of duty and conduct must be above all. My encouragement to all new and continuing Members of Parliament is uphold the laws of our land as stipulated in the National Constitution.

The rule of law and respect of systems, procedures and processes to strengthen and enhance existing institutions that govern our very existence, adhering to the *Public Finance Management Act* in supporting the work of the Public Committee particularly in the Management and Dispatchment of Public Funds is equally important. Implementation of funding resources, such as district development and provincial development grants and other development funds go a long way to bringing much needed services to the majority of our people who live in the rural areas of our country.

I believe the induction process conducted last week particularly for our new Members of Parliament has prepared you sufficiently for the important roles that you have come to assume for the betterment of our country.

05/02

Thus, being familiar with our domestic policies which includes the Vision 2050. It is important.

Our foreign relations at the regional and global levels with our bilateral and multilateral partners play a major role in complementing our national development initiatives and priorities.

We need to meaningfully engage with these institutions by demonstrating allegiance and also leadership in pursuing these successful sustainable regional development and advancement.

In that respect I note that preparations are well advanced in hosting of the APEC World Leaders Summit in 2018 and I request for the full cooperation of all Parliamentarians to ensure that we deliver a successful APEC Meet.

The impact of a meeting of this magnitude and the economic opportunity it will create for our country is huge.

Let us now focus on the tasks at hand for the next five years and for all Parliamentarians to implement all government priorities that includes health, education, transport, law and order, economic infrastructure, trade promotions, climate change and the environment.

These key priority areas are the cornerstone to our development and cannot be ignored if we are to progress as a nation towards realising the visions of Vision 2050 of being smart, wise, fair, healthy and happy society. We have already started and need to keep pushing forward.

Let me give some examples; the first is revenue generation activities. In order to deliver on these priority areas, we need to have a strong revenue base with new revenue generation activities and improved collection of appropriate taxes and incomes.

Despite the current low world commodity prices, the mining, petroleum and gas sectors continue to contribute enormously to our gross domestic product.

Let's now expand our potential to raise revenue by shifting focus from non-renewable sector resources to the renewable sector resources such as sustainable agriculture, fisheries and tourism to where the bulk of our population is.

Secondly, the environment. In facilitating development through these economic instruments. Let us also be mindful that these development activities must not come at the expense of our delicate, beautiful and natural environment. We must also have policies in place that allow us to sustainably harvest and exploit our natural resources in an environmentally friendly manner.

This will allow us to enjoy the benefits now while preserving the environment for our children and their children to enjoy in years to come.

Third is the policies initiatives.

06/02

Appropriate policies are already in place and all that is required now is to foster sufficient financial and administrative resources, while placing appropriate leadership mindset at the national, provincial and district levels to drive these policies.

With regard to the implementation of the existing policies, the Government will re-examine and provide a cost effective analysis, ongoing policy initiatives whilst at the same time considering the current economic conditions the country is facing to make more informed and appropriate decisions to improve the development needs of our people.

In regards to economic reforms, the Government will engage proactively with the business sector and community and provide enabling policies to successfully deal with the challenges they are currently encountering.

These includes relevant amendments to legislation in sectors such as agriculture fisheries, forestry and tourism and through capacity building initiatives to enable more national and landowner participation.

In saying so, I think it is time now to look at our laws that governs our minerals resource exploitation on whether we should be spectators or participants and major owners of our resources.

There must be necessary reforms amid creating inclusively and a level playing field that provides a conducive environment for small and medium sized businesses to be established to operate and grow the economy.

It is about time we talk more about down-streaming rather than exporting our raw resources.

I am a strong believer in rural development and it is imperative that the financial and administrative systems are strengthened and implemented at a level to ensure that the rural masses share the noble aim of fair and equitable distribution of resources that is visibly enshrined in our *Constitution*.

The road ahead will be challenging if we are to achieve our goals however, we must rise up together as one and meet the challenges. It therefore requires the unequivocal bi-partisan support and commitment of all Members of Parliament here today when debating

and enacting laws, political, economic, social and environmental development policies which are beneficial for our people.

I note in this Term of Parliament, a good number of Members of Parliament are in the Opposition. I am confident that you will use your numbers to debate and support Bills and policies for the good of our people and our nation. Your vote on the Floor of Parliament must be based on the merit of the policy of the Bill introduced and your morale conscience.

I would also expect that the Government in introducing relevant laws and Bills will accommodate the views, comments and critics offered by the Opposition.

07/02

Only then will we be able to look back and measure our progress and set a way forward which is feasible, sustainable. And draw the tangible and desired outcomes for the people you represent.

A Government of the people, by the people and for the people with attachments to strong Christian values and principles, in my mind is the most transparent and accountable approach that we all should strive to adhere to. I am reminded of the wise words in the Bible from the book of Proverbs chapter 11 verse 14. "Where there is no wise guidance, the nation falls but with the multitude of counsellors, there is victory."

I once again congratulate the coalition Government and all the Members in the Opposition and wish the new and continuing parliamentarians every success in the next five years.

May God bless Papua New Guinea during the 10th National Parliament and I wish you all every success in your political endeavours.

On behalf of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, head of the commonwealth, it is my privilege and honour to declare the 10th National Parliament of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea open.

(Clapping in Chamber)

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, His Excellency the Governor-General of Papua New Guinea will now retire.

(Everybody stood in respect)

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, His Honour the Chief Justice of Papua New Guinea, **Sir Salamo Injia** will now retire.

(Everybody stood in respect)

08/02

Sitting suspended from 11.20 a.m. to 2 p.m..

09/02

Mr PETER O'NEILL (Ialibu-Pangia - Prime Minister and Minister for Sports & APEC) – I move –

That the Parliament take note of the address by the Governor General this morning and that we Members of the National Parliament of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea assembled here, express our most gracious appreciation to His Excellency, the Governor General who presented the address this morning on the opening of this Tenth Parliament.

Mr Speaker, please allow me to express the Governments appreciation also on this occasion. At the same time, I take this opportunity to welcome all Members of Parliament on both sides of the House. Our people have placed their trust in all of us representing their interest and that we continue to stand up for the interest of our great nation. Now is the time for us to be united behind this common trust that our people have placed on us. It is time to put our personal politics aside and it's time to debate policy agenda, ideas that will advance the interest of all Papua New Guineans.

Mr Speaker, as Government, we will continue to build on the foundations that we have built over the last five years. We all have gone into the elections with a core set of policy agenda that each of our voters have embraced. Working with our coalition partners in Alotau, Mr Speaker, we have further strengthened these policies and this is going to be the agenda that we will bring to this honourable House during the term of this Parliament.

We all have the mandate of our people and we must continue to honour the mandate that has been given to us, not only through words but through our actions as well. As government we will maintain focus on strengthening the economic foundations of our nation. We will review the revenue strings that our government and our country continues to

generate and of course we will identify through this process the potentials that are available for us so that we can increase this revenue stream.

Mr Speaker, this will involve the development of a comprehensive medium term revenue strategy so that we can stimulate revenue led growth in our economy.

Mr Speaker, alongside this assessment of the revenue, we will undertake a very comprehensive review of our expenditure and that management strategy. We acknowledge that this is an essential part of our life for both government and business alike but we must continue to think long term and continue to apply sensible strategies in managing them.

Mr Speaker, our economy is in a strong position compared to similar economies around the world. We will continue to review this position and make positive changes.

Mr Speaker, an important element in facilitation of true economic growth is the real sharing of the gains so that all our people benefit. Our government working with all our agencies of government and our international partners will continue to expand the delivery of economic inclusion programmes. We will continue to increase the financial literacy and access to credit so that our formal economy can continue to grow.

10/02

Mr Speaker, over the past forty years, one of the key business shortfalls that has been in our country is our inability to grow the SME sector.

Mr Speaker, while we are open to inviting more foreign direct investments we need to ensure that there is more level playing field for our people especially in the SME sector. We have delivered a comprehensive policy strategy on this and we will deliver a business strategy that will grow this sector well into the years. When it comes to large scale projects Mr Speaker, global companies continue to maintain the highest level of confidence in our oil, gas and mineral sectors.

Currently, Mr Speaker, we are working with Total from French, Exxon Mobil from United States, Oil Search and other companies so that we can develop the next level of LNG production in our country. Mr Speaker, at the same time, we know that the value added coming from this, is part of the strategy that we must adopt so that our people and our country continues to benefit more. We will advance plans to establishing a petrochemical industry in the country over the coming years.

We also need to work harder so that we can continue to support the landowner ownerships and equitable benefits sharing that our people are demanding. We want to ensure

that the traditional owners of our land can truly benefit from the resources that they and their communities have possessed for thousands of years.

To this end, we are committed to a comprehensive review again on the ownership rights of our resources in the country.

Again, our forestry sector is another resource sector where we can also add value. For far too long governments have had less and transparent visibility of this industry, where we have been turning a blind eye on issues that are blatantly before us.

Mr Speaker, in this term of government, we will legislate for a sustainable forestry development and we will continue to increase landowner participation in this industry.

Mr Speaker, another area of great potential for our people is the tourism industry. There is so much that can be offered to the world tourism market and also to our domestic market as well.

We must strengthen tourism infrastructure in the country. This does not include only building of hotels but also other infrastructures like seaports and airports.

Again, as agreed in the *Alotau Accord*, we will be promote and establish associated infrastructures in the tourism hub areas in the country. The economy of any nation can only move forward if we have the right infrastructures in place.

Mr Speaker, over the recent decades, infrastructure have been left to ruin and has not kept space with the growing demand of a growing population. Through the *Alotau Accord*, we have committed to opening up missing links especially roads and bridge links between many of our isolated communities throughout the country.

Mr Speaker, we are determined to bring other infrastructure such as power and telecommunication cheaper to those remote communities right throughout the country.

Mr Speaker, we have also suffered from a very negative reputation in the law and order issues. Again, in the policy initiatives of the second *Alotau Accord* we want to create a safer and more secure communities for our families.

Our Government is committed to continue recruitment of well-disciplined policemen and women and of course all the other disciplined forces and equipping them with the right equipment so that they can do a fair job.

We will also be reviewing a legislation that governs all our discipline services to ensure a far better accountability so that there is command and controlled structures in each of the disciplines.

Mr Speaker, today in many parts of the country our judiciary and the legal infrastructure are also getting a better construction and updating of the many of its infrastructure right throughout the country.

11/02

Mr Speaker, today many parts of the country, our judiciary and the legal infrastructure are also getting a better construction and updating of many of its infrastructure right throughout the country. Similarly, free education for our children has certainly changed the nation and launched the path of many young Papua New Guineans through this programme. Over the past five year, we have placed more than one million extra children in these schools, the first five years of free education has come with a lot of challenges, we are the first to admit this and our clear focus now should be on improving the quality of education for our children.

We also need to keep increasing the number of Papua New Guineans who are getting trade qualifications and expanding their academic qualifications through universities and of course technical training from many of our institutions throughout the country.

We are committed to now establishing an education endowment fund that will further enhance quality education being delivered throughout the country. Providing health care to remote areas remain a core government policy. Access to medical care should not be restricted to urban areas only and in this term of Government, we will continue to build, rehabilitate district and provincial hospitals right across the country, this is continuing the work that we have started.

Mr Speaker, many of the districts and provinces are starting to benefit from this infrastructure expansion of the health sector throughout the country. We will continue to subsidize specialist health care and improve the collection of health data and wellbeing indicators right throughout the country.

One area that we need to be aware of is that we do not know how many people and the accurate population of the country. We have estimates but these estimates are not accurate enough and we need to re-establish the national data collection centre so that we can plan better and we can develop better policies. Accurate population data is key to proper public policy planning and monitoring. We must aim to keep our economic growth above our population growth.

We can only do this by having access to reliable data and of course monitor this important indicators as we move forward. We live in a changing globalised world and it is essential that we position ourselves to be functional and respected global citizen. We will continue to grow our trading opportunities and partnership with many of the countries within the region. We will continue to build on our multinational relations that we already have.

Mr Speaker, in the coming months, Papua New Guinea is going to host one of the most important meeting, the APEC Meeting in November, 2018. 20 Prime Ministers and 20 Presidents of the APEC Member Economies will be visiting our countries with a large delegation, estimated to be over 12, 000 businessmen and women and this is a great opportunity to showcase our opportunities that we have in the country. And this is an opportunity for us to change the way the world views us as a country.

Papua New Guinea's hosting of the APEC Meeting will have a Pacific style hospitality along with a world class security arrangement. We will continue to be a government that governs for all Papua New Guineans. We must be united for all our people, for the betterment of their lives and of course for our country. We will continue to execute the mandate that has been trusted upon us with diligent and compassion and we will work day and night to deliver the infrastructure and services that will continue to strengthen our economy and our communities. This is a pledge that our government makes to our people and we thank our nation and this Honourable house for the mandate that they have bestowed upon us and we will certainly not let you down and we hope to deliver to your expectations, God Bless Papua New Guinea.

12/02

Debate (on motion by **Mr James Marape**) adjourned.

MOTION BY LEAVE

Mr JAMES MARAPE (Tari-Pori – Minister for Finance and Rural Development) – I seek leave of the Parliament to move a motion without notice.

Leave granted.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS – REARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS

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

That Parliament elect the Deputy Speaker.

ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Mr JAMES MARAPE (Tari-Pori – Minister for Finance and Rural Development) – I nominate Honourable Member for Nipa-Kutubu, Mr Pesab Jeffery Komal, as the Deputy Speaker.

Mr NICK KUMAN (Gumine – Minister for Education) – I second the nomination.

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Member for Nipa-Kutubu, do you accept the nomination?

Mr PESAB JEFFERY KOMAL – I accept.

Mr SAM BASIL (Bulolo-Deputy Opposition Leader) – I nominate Member for Maprik, Honourable John Simon.

Mr KERENGA KUA (Sinassina-Yonggamugl) – I second the nomination.

Mr JOHN SIMON – I accept the nomination.

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, in accordance with the practice of the Parliament, the bells will be rung and the ballot papers will be distributed to each of you. Honourable Members, please write the name of the candidate for whom you wish to vote on the ballot paper. The candidates are: Honourable Pesab Jeffery Komal and Honourable John Simon.

13/02

Mr SPEAKER - The results of the ballot are as follows:

Mr PESAB JEFFERY KOMAL – 57

Mr JOHN SIMON – 47

Honourable Pesab Jeffery Komal was elected Deputy Speaker of the National Parliament.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament at its rising adjourn to 26 September at 2.00 p.m..

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

Parliament adjourned at 3.35 p.m..