

DAY FOUR

Friday 29 September 2017

DRAFT HANSARD

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
CORRECTIONS TO DAILY DRAFT HANSARD

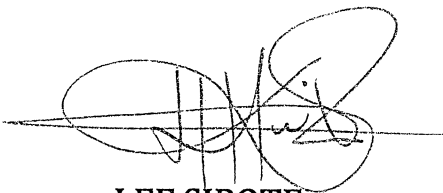
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Corrections maybe marked on a photocopy of the Daily Draft Hansard and lodged at the Office of the Principal Parliamentary Reporter, A1 – 23 (next to the Security Control Room).

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 be 'LEE SIROTE', written over a horizontal line.

LEE SIROTE

Acting Principal Parliamentary Reporter

FOURTH DAY

Friday 29 September 2017

The Speaker (**Mr Job Pomat**) took the Chair at 10 a.m..

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

Sitting suspended.

The Speaker again took the Chair at 10.45 a.m. and invited the Member for Rabaul, Honourable **Allan Marat** to say Prayers:

‘Father, we come to you in the name of Yeshua Messia. As we stand before you, you can see it through each and everyone one of us. You see our hearts whether our hearts are closer to you or far away from you. We pray this morning that you will forgive us all transgressions, all our disobediences that in the name of Yeshua Messia will forgive those trespasses and soak each and everyone one of us in your precious blood this morning and remove all impurities from us, from our hearts and entire being so that we can be fit for your service this morning throughout this session. This is our prayer and we offer it to you Father in the name of Yeshua, who is our saviour our Lord and our soon coming King, Amen.’

TABLING OF RETURNED WRITS

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members in accordance with Section 175 of the Organic Law on National and Local-level Government Elections. I lay on the table the late Return of Writs, which His Excellency the Governor General issued for the general elections held from Thursday 20 June 2017 to Monday 24 July 2017, and that by the endorsement on the writ, it was certified that Mr William Powi was duly elected as the Member for Southern Highlands Provincial electorate.

Sergeant-At-Arms – Mr Speaker, the new Member.

Mr SPEAKER – Admit him.

DECLARATIONS OF OFFICE AND DECLARATIONS OF LOYALTY

Mr SPEAKER - Honourable Member, where there is a space you will announce your own name and the rest you will repeat after me:

I, William Powi, realising fully the responsibilities to which I am committing myself and the consequences of not living up this declaration and those responsibilities freely and willing declare my loyalty to the Independent State of PNG and its people and to the Constitution of PNG adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 15 August 1975, has altered from time to time in accordance with its provisions and promise that I will uphold the Constitution and the Laws of PNG.

02/04

QUESTION

Sir MEKERE MORAUTA – Thank you, Mr Speaker. My Question is directed to the Prime Minister. Mr Prime Minister, when you bought 149 million shares for AUS \$8.20 each, you gave two justifications. The first was and I quote “This is the best deal for Papua New Guinea”

Government Members – You are asking the same Question!

Oil Search Shares

Sir MEKERE MORAUTA – I am going to come to the questions, just wait. The second justification was that this is a huge financial gain for Papua New Guinea. Then you proceeded to sell the shares at less than the purchase price.

(1) How much was lost as a result of selling shares less than the price you bought them for?

The second justification was that, it was to protect Oil Search from being taken over and also to protect your friend Peter Botten, the managing director.

(2) How are you going to protect Oil Search from being taken over and how are you going to protect your friend Peter Botten?

Or is it that you sold the shares at a price less than you bought for to a nominee company, whose shareholders will remain unknown in order to protect friends and the company.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Mr Speaker, thank you very much and I thank the Member for Moresby North West for his question.

Mr Speaker, it's obvious that the Member is personalising these issues.

Mr Peter Botten is not a friend of mine. He is certainly a leading business executive in the country. He has contributed immensely to the development of our country in many aspects not only through the investments Oil Search makes, but through many other development projects that he has undertaken, especially the work he does in the health sector in the country as Chairman of Tari Hospital.

03/04

Mr Speaker, this kind of person need not to be ridicule. They do not need to be insulted in the manner that the Member for Moresby North-West is inferring.

Mr Speaker, the Kumul Petroleum held the shares in Oil Search, not the State. Kumul Petroleum by Act of this Parliament will be submitting a report to Parliament.

Mr Speaker today at 3 o'clock there will be an AGM. When the AGM is concluded, I will table the report from Kumul Petroleum in Parliament and the Member for Moresby North-West can see it for himself.

Mr Speaker, I do not need to labour on it anymore because the shares have been sold. They have not been sold to a nominated company but have been sold to any existing shareholders in Oil Search so that the shares are not going to one particular company but sold across to many companies. It is a publicly listed company and as a result anybody can have access to buying this shares when they are on offer.

Lands Board – East Sepik

Mr JOHNSON WAPUNA – Thank you Mr Speaker. I direct my questions to the Minister for Lands.

We have not had an established Lands Board for the last 14 years and that is why land in my district in Ambunti and Wewak are being taken up by outside people. This is encouraging

a lot of illegal settlers occupying government land. Our businessmen and women in East Sepik cannot conduct their business because of land shortage.

The current Provincial Lands Manager is a retired lands officer who was re-employed, paid on casual basis while his competency is not up to standard.

My questions are:

(1) When will the Minister appointment a new Provincial Lands Manager in East Sepik Province?

(2) When will the Minister establish a new Lands Board in East Sepik Province so that the service delivery can be effective in the district?

I cannot build houses for the public servants in my district because land is already taken up by people. There are almost one thousand land request application still awaiting approval. This is an urgent matter and we need to deal with it accordingly.

Mr JUSTIN TKATCHENKO – Thank you Mr Speaker. I thank the Member for Ambunti-Drekikir for his very important questions on the establishment of the Lands Board, Physical Planning in East Sepik Province.

According to my briefs the Department of Lands has been to East Sepik many times. And over the past 14 years, the East Sepik Province has not given priority to issues of land and administration and land functions for that matter. The land is either rejected or is not been looked after in a proper manner that suits the people of East Sepik.

In collaboration with the Provincial Administration, we were able to schedule land boards meeting through the PNG Land Board at the beginning of the year. The Land Board for the Province was to be co-funded by the Provincial Administration and the Department of Lands and Physical Planning with the agendas and notices for tender publicly displayed for people to apply.

Unfortunately, the structure of the Provincial Government of East Sepik does not accommodate for the Lands Board or Physical Planning Board.

04/04

So I personally call upon the Governor of East Sepik and the Members to work with me so that we can finally resolve those outstanding issues of the Lands Board.

A new Lands Board must be established to sort out all the land issues in East Sepik Province. Currently, there are 60 agendas listed to be deliberated on for the benefit of future development and economic prosperity of the province.

Supplementary Question

Substandard Buildings on Reserve Lands

Mr ALLAN BIRD - Mr Speaker, I thank the Minister for his undertaking and too, he is right in saying that we are working hard to establish the lands and physical planning board. However, I do have one appeal which we have a lot of substandard buildings that are being erected in East Sepik, being approved by your department.

What really concerns me very much is when we have standards for buildings; for instances, one particular building which your department approved to build 13 meters into the road reserve and it's built right beneath the power line. Therefore, under the building law you cannot build anything within two meters of a power pole.

Mr Benny Allan – Point of Order! Mr Speaker, Lands Department doesn't deliberate on Building Board items, it's a separate board altogether and it's not under Lands Department.

Mr ALLAN BIRD – When I gave a directive to stop the building, the lawyer came to me with documents which, I have copies that were authorised by the Department of Lands in Port Moresby.

So I still intend to see the Minister for Lands because approval came from there. My point here is that we have standards in this country that are quite clear in the code and I can't understand how Papua New Guineans who are entrusted with these matters could knowingly give approval to get rid of the road reserve. Which is intended for future use and allow a building to be built right into the road reserve and beneath power line. I want the Minister to seriously consider this issue and we all can collectively solve it.

Mr JUSTIN TKATCHENKO – I thank the Governor for East Sepik, road reserves are for that particular purposes like power, water, footpath and public usage. But if any construction or building has been erected on the drainage or road reserve then it has to be questioned.

And we have an example here in Port Moresby.

Mr Kerenga Kua – Hohola!

Mr JUSTIN TKATCHENKO – Yes, Hohola is a classic example and I have instructed the Lands Department in consultation with the Governor of NCD to compulsory

acquire back the drainage reserves in the city. Which comes under the new National Capital District Board unit to secure all public space in our city. And same principles will be applied to all the provinces as well.

But road and drainage reserves are public property and it's for the benefit of future development. If there is a breach in that regard then please kindly submit to me all the documentations necessary and we will carry on from there.

05/04

K64.4 million Funding for Wards

Mr JOE SUNGI – Thank you, Mr Speaker for recognising the people of Nuku.

Firstly, on behalf of my people, I wish to convey our gladness for the re-election of my former colleague in provincial administration, Mr William Powi.

I wish to thank the people of Southern Highlands for giving him a second opportunity to come back to Parliament and also congratulate him on his win.

He has very good experiences as a former administrator in one of the most important provinces in Papua New Guinea. This leadership and management experience will auger well for him in leading his province.

My question is directed to our Prime Minister since the minister for Inter-Government Relations was not a Member when we passed the 2017 Budget. This is a continuation from my debate on the 2017 Supplementary Budget.

If you can remember you and the Treasurer, who is now the Opposition Leader made a grand announcement during the presentation of the 2017 Budget to park in, for the very first time, K64.4 million in the well over 6000 wards of this country. This wards have now come to expect that this money would be there for them for the very first time in the history of this country.

Mr Speaker, if that has been your commitment, I wish to ask you if this K64.4 million be reinstated so that the wards can be catered for so that for the very first time we can see funding going down straight to the wards.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I thank the good Member for Nuku for his question.

Mr Speaker, as you know we just came back from the election which also should have coincided with that of the Local Level Governments Elections but we have deferred the LLG elections to 2018.

We are now preparing to make resources available for those elections to be conducted but with respect to the Wards Services Improvement Programmes, Mr Speaker, I intend to reinstate the funding for that in 2018 and it will be disbursed after the LLG elections.

Mr Speaker, we want to have the elections taking place in 2018 so that we can have the councillors and their wards operating effectively.

Mr Speaker, let me also thank most of the Members of Parliament who have been consistently funding the wards through their DSIP. Some of us are doing that and it is an indication of how different levels of government can work together so that we deliver the services to our people that they truly deserve.

So, Mr Speaker, in short, we will reinstate that in 2018.

Oro District Health Centre and Supplies

Mr RICHARD MASERE – Thank you Mr Speaker, I have two questions to be directed to the Minister for Health and HIV/AIDS.

Before I ask my questions, let me take this occasion to congratulate you on your election as the Member for Manus and also your elevation to the Office of the Speaker.

I also wish to take this occasion to, on behalf of the people of Ijivitari, congratulate the Prime Minister on his re-election as the Member for Ialibu-Pangia and his re-election as Prime Minister.

I would also like to congratulate all the Members of Parliament on their election to this honourable House.

06/04

Before I ask my question, let me congratulate the Minister for Health and HIV/AIDS for his appointment as Minister.

Mr Speaker, three weeks ago I read an article on the *Dailies* on the Minister prioritising rural health.

Mr Speaker that is an important yard-stone if we are to address the health issues in the country because eighty percent of our communities are in the rural areas. So when we focus on rural health, we are addressing eighty percent of the problem our country is facing.

Mr Speaker, I am grateful to the Minister for taking that direction and to strengthen that focus, we need to build manpower, improve supply chain process and improve funding towards that area.

Mr Speaker, my questions are as follows:

We have a District Hospital in Oro Bay LLG and they have upgraded that aid post to district health centre in 2014, but this hospital has been awaiting its certification since then so that it can operate and function as a district hospital.

Because it hasn't been approved as yet, the hospital has been operating at a budget of K7 000 per month and its actual budget to operate that hospital is around K42 000.

(1) Mr Speaker, can the Minister take it on himself to expedite the process to certify the hospital, so that it can function to address some of the districts health woes?

Mr Speaker, in regards to medicine supply, we have a facility that stores all the medicine we have come to know that medicine is not the issue. We do have enough medicine in the health stores, but we have found out that there is a breakdown in the supply chain process.

One of the issues is shortfall of funds to pay for posts to send medicines to the districts. So we have been without medicine for the last three requests because of this issue.

(2) Does the Minister have a solution for this problem to fix it so that we can get the medicines to the district hospitals to address the health issues in our communities?

Sir PUKA TEMU – Mr Speaker, I thank the honourable Member for Ijivitari for his series of questions on rural health and also wish to congratulate him on his election as Member for Ijivitari and let me say that we both are neighbours.

Mr Speaker, the issue of Oro Bay District Hospital level 4, let me advise Parliament that any health facility that is to be built must have clearance from the health facilities branch of the Department of Health. Because in the 21st century, many litigations are now beginning to happen so we need to defend the facility standards and also defend the health workers that also have to be registered with the Medical Board for example.

If the building was built before that approval process than unfortunately it has taken that delay.

Mr Speaker, I want to assure the good Member that I will facilitate and will take on myself to send a team to Oro Bay and look at that District Hospital and make sure that they address the issue of why is it that they have not yet given clearance for the facility to operate as a health facility.

For example, if the hospital has an x-ray machine and the question is, does it have lead lining or not. If there is no lead lining, the x-ray will shoot wide and in the process many innocent people will be affected by the radiation.

07/04

That is one such example of why a level 4 hospital which will have an x-ray must be certified otherwise if somebody develops cancer the State will then be held liable. That is the message so if you are building a facility the Health Department must clear the plans and designs before you build. We will help you to meet the requirements if you have inadequacies.

With regard to second question on supply, as the Honourable Member has mentioned, we are now moving supplies to area medical stores therefore the issue about supplies is being addressed. I want to thank the Treasurer and the Prime Minister for allocating K100 million in the Supplementary Budget for medical supplies which was approved by Parliament. That is to make sure that our people are being treated when they get sick and I commend the Parliament for approving that allocation of funding for supplies. I can assure the Parliament that my Department will make sure that we have a six months buffer of supplies so that we don't run out. Under the support of the Australian Government we have an IT system that can detect anywhere in the country if we are short on any particular medical supply.

I encourage Members to get your CEOs and the Health Managers to go to their area medical store and pick up their medical supplies. I know that at health centres or hospitals they do not have the funds to go to their specific medical stores to pick up supplies so I encourage Members to help the Health Managers and CEOs to pick up their supplies. We must support them with simple logistics like vehicles and fuel to go to their provincial medical stores to pick their supplies.

Secondly if it is a bit far then private companies have been awarded contracts to transport supplies to specific areas. Their job is to collect the supplies and distribute them accordingly. With the approval of funds all contracts have been paid their money to carry out their duties. There are no excuses if supplies do not reach their destinations. I can assure the Parliament that funds, have been released so medical supplies should reach all our medical centres in the country. We have already received the first K50 million and so logistic companies have been paid.

08/04

Supplementary Question

Kerema Morgue

Mr CHRIS HAIVETA- Kerema has a morgue which is not in operation for nearly two years now causing too many difficulties to our people. I've asked around for help and

they are willing to help but need approval and clearance on standards from the hospital and the Department. So when are your officers coming over to discuss the matter with us so that the Provincial Government can allocate funds to fix the morgue?

Secondly, we have improved the water situation into the hospitals facility but can the Board with your input establish a longer term solution in ensuring water is adequately available during dry session?

Sir PUKA TEMU- Mr Speaker, I thank the Governor for Gulf for his questions and his initiatives to work with us to improve the morgue and the water situation at the Kerema hospital. I will make time available this week to meeting with him and his technical team and my team to address this issue.

Mortuary issues are big where they are filling up, our relatives are not picking them up on time, 9 Mile has already filled up so Mr Speaker, on this issue, and I want to ask how we make land available or go against some of the traditions to bring in the issue of cremation. These are some of the issues to be discussed with the Governor for Gulf immediately so that we can mobilise our technical teams to address the issue on Kerema.

Lae City Authority

Mr JOHN ROSSO- Thank you for recognising me and the people of Lae and congratulate you for your election as the Speaker of the National Parliament and also congratulate the Prime Minister Hon Peter O'Neill for his election as the Prime Minister for Papua New Guinea. Also I take this opportunity to congratulate the Opposition leader Mr Patrick Pruaitch.

My question without notice is directed to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Provincial and Local Level Government to take note. Lae is the nation's second largest city and is the gate way port into the six highlands provinces and the regional centre of the Momase region. Lae is also the industrial hub of Papua New Guinea. Due to its importance, the need for consistent maintenance repairs upgrading and the need to continue expending the municipal services effectively as the current one is ineffective.

In the 9th Parliament, the then O'Neill-Dion Government recognises the need to ensure this urban district, the second largest city in PNG had an effective government structure with an adequate revenue strings other than those under the current structure. The plan was to establish the Lae City Commission or the Lae City Authority. That will have the effect of a board administering the affairs of the city effectively and the Commission to

have powers to raise, retain and expand revenue and account for its usage. The previous Provincial Government under Governor Kelly Naru opposed this and took it to court and the initiative died with the 9th Parliament.

My questions are:

(a) Is the Prime Minister aware that the current Morobe provincial government has resolved to withdraw the legal challenge initiated by the previous Provincial Executive Council (PEC)? Thank you Governor for the support and in supporting the current Lae City Commission structure,

(b) Given the resolution to withdraw the legal challenge and the obvious support of all the Morobe MPs, can the Prime Minister advise the people of Lae and myself whether this Government will revitalise the initiative to establish the Lae City Commission through the *Act of Parliament*,

09/04

(c) Can the Prime Minister map out the timeline and schedule on how the Government intends to replace Lae City Authority or the Lae City Commission?

This would give Lae an appropriate structure to manage the city befitting its status as the second largest city in Papua New Guinea and the nation's industrial hub. Thank you.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thankyou Mr Speaker, I thank the Member for Lae for his question and let me place on record our appreciation to the Morobe Provincial Government for taking the leadership and initiative for withdrawing the ongoing case against the establishment of the Lae City Authority.

Mr Speaker, this Parliament has already passed the legislation .The Lae City Authority itself is now established as by the Act of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, we look forward to working with the honourable Member so that we can reconstitute the city authority and better manage the services that are not being delivered today to the residents of Lae city.

Mr Speaker, running a large growing city like Lae is a very important responsibility. Residents need the services of water, garbage collection and cleaning. These services need to be managed properly and that is why the Government in its wisdom decided to establish a city authority for Lae and Mt Hagen as well.

Mr Speaker, we will start working on it through the allocation of resources comes 2018 Budget so that we can be able to better manage the city in a manner that it deserves.

Mr Speaker, the other area that we are looking at is to see whether we can now allow provincial governments to collect sales tax, GST at the provinces themselves, because as it is, its centralised with Internal Revenue Commission responsible for that collection.

The concept of self-regulating and self-assessment is certainly not working. There are quite a number of large companies that are operating within the country are not paying their taxes. That is why the provincial governments are better suited because they are on location and they are able to collect the revenue much better where some of these revenue streams should go down to the Lae City Authority for the management of the city itself.

Mr Speaker, over the next few weeks, when we are framing the 2018 Budget, we will start working on the details around this. Thankyou Mr Speaker.

Coffee Berry Borer

Mr ALLAN BIRD – Mr Speaker, my query is in regards to the Coffee Berry Borer allocation. Mr Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister,

Mr Speaker, my concern is, I don't think that the Government is taking the coffee berry borer problem seriously by allocating K5 million. My reasons are as follows, we the coastal people have experienced such problem with cocoa pod borer previously.

In East Sepik we have lost around 45 per cent of our cocoa production, East New Britain is even worse.

My understanding of the coffee berry borer is that it is much more destructive than the cocoa pod borer. I am asking because, East Sepik is the largest producer of Robusta Coffee in Papua New Guinea. But our biggest production, as stated by the Minister of Agriculture, is the Highlands region, producing 1.1 million bags and the borer is now already there.

My concern is, the Government has allocated K5million. Is that a travelling allowance? Because during the cocoa pod borer catastrophe, the total allocation was K70 million and even then the effort failed. If we are going to allocate K5 million for a problem that is going to affect three million Papua New Guineans, then we have a serious issue here. We have not budgeted any extra funds to purchase pesticides to combat that problem but only allocated money to do inspections.

10/04

Mr Speaker, this is like giving the people who are growing coffee a bucket of water to fight the house on fire.

If the coffee dies out in East Sepik, I still have cocoa and vanilla but up in the Highlands, they only have coffee.

So, I want to appeal to the Prime Minister to review that because no one is speaking on behalf of the farmers. I want your government to review this and allocate more money and take this berry borer seriously.

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thank you very much Mr Speaker. I thank the Governor of East Sepik for his question.

Mr Speaker, the Minister for Agriculture is already on top of the issue. We have allocated K5 million to start the work at the balance of this year, which is only two or three months ago. That is the money that will be spent in the next three months. We will make some allocations in the 2018 Budget.

We understand the situation and as I said, the Minister for Agriculture and his Department is already on top of the issue on hand.

PNG acting officers and retirees

Mr JOE LERA – Thank you Mr Speaker. I have three short questions which I wish to direct to the Public Service Minister.

(1) Can the good Minister explain to the people of Papua New Guinea and Bougainville, the reasons for too many acting and unattached officers in the government system?

(2) Can the Minister also explain why many of them who stood down, retired or retrenched have not been paid their dues and are continuing to live in institutional houses making it hard for new officers to have reasonable housing?

(3) Can the Minister tell the people of this country what his Department is doing about this issues?

Mr ELIAS KAPAVORE – Thank you Mr Speaker. I thank the Governor of Bougainville for his questions.

Regarding the staff that were retrench some years ago and are yet to be paid, my Department will work with them to establish the actual situation and we will give them the appropriate way forward.

In terms of the acting appointments and the issue of unattached officers in the system, firstly, the acting appointments come about when the contract terms expires or as a result of

termination in disciplinary situation or when substantive position holders take leave and someone is appointed on another person's position. This affects appointments in the system.

We sometimes have unattached officers in the system when the new structure is approved. We also have unattached officers pending advertisements and recruitments of new staff.

On the question of what my department is doing at the moment, in the last couple of week, I am kept updated on a weekly basis with regards to the status of Departmental Heads, PAs and the CEOs of the statutory bodies.

I have instructed my department to put a time frame so that we can have substantive appointment within three months. In the past, this process has been taking years.

The government has done some appointment in the last couple of weeks. One of the appointments done amongst others was the substantive appointment to the PAs position in East New Britain Province. This shows that this government is committed in making appointments to improve service delivery in our country.

I often enter into open dialogue and consultation between the portfolio Ministers and the provincial governments, the Governors and my department to ensure -

11/04

Improved service delivery in our country. I encourage open dialogue in consultation between the ministries and the provincial governments with my department to ensure fit and proper persons of morale values with leadership qualities are recruited as head of our departments. We know that every systems are as good as the people managing them, we plan to convene ministerial executive committees meetings on a regular basis. This meeting is chaired by myself, Minister of Treasury who is also the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for National Planning and Implementation and Minister for Justice and Attorney General with his Secretariat provided by Department of Personnel Management.

We must allow diligence to each of the process in keeping with appropriate legislative boundaries. The last thing we want to do is handing up with court cases in some of our appointments happening in the past. Actually, we can make appointments within three months unless our efforts are impeded by court processes. With regard to unattached officers, it's the responsibilities of the respective provincial administrators and the departmental heads and CEOs of Regulatory Statutory Authorities to fully understand and utilise the human resources devolve powers. I urge it's a process in recruiting to minimise the unattached officers or access

staff who become liabilities which result in payroll blow-outs. During recruitments it's preferable that we can deploy staff within the respective organisations to other areas.

Mr GINSON SAONU – Point of Order! Mr Speaker, can the honourable Minister prepare a ministerial statement and present it later. But for now can he answer the question to the point?

Mr SPEAKER – Point of order is in order. Minister, can you answer the question asked by regional Member of Bougainville.

Mr ELIAS KAPVORE – Mr Speaker, I have already answered the questions. In relation to unattached officers and acting appointments, my department is fully aware of what is happening at the moment. We will try our best to work with the Governors and they must collaborate with all your PAs. And all the ministers must collaborate with all departmental heads in putting together their time-frame and KPI targets so that we can use those as a measurements of performance so that decisions can be made.

So I urged all the mentioned authorities and agencies to work collectively so that our work will flow smoothly for the good and benefit of our country.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS – EXTENDED TIME FOR QUESTIONS

Motion (by **Mr Ginson Saonu**) agreed to –

That so much of the *Standing Orders* be suspended as would prevent the time for questions without notice this day being extended by 20 minutes.

Mr GINSON SAONU – I ask leave of the Chair to ask you a question.

Mr SPEAKER – Go ahead, leave is granted.

Removal of traditional items from Parliament

Mr GINSON SAONU – Mr Speaker, in the last Parliament, your predecessor who is from my province ordered certain traditional items of this Parliament to be removed. These items were part and parcel of the identity of this Parliament.

Therefore, I offer my apologies on behalf of Morobe people and the leaders for the destruction carried out in the last Parliament, and to those individuals and provinces who contributed to beautify our beautiful Parliament here.

12/04

My simple question is; when will you take steps to restore these motifs and identity of Parliament to its real and original identity?

Mr SPEAKER – Thank you for the question from the Governor of Morobe.

Some time ago, my predecessor made a decision to do what was done, and that is to remove those cultural heritage from the Parliament.

I understand that the process for that was not followed. There was a legal challenge instigated and the court handed down a decision to have the heritage reinstated but there was an appeal and so the matter is back in court.

When I took the Chair, I had a premonition so, honourable Governor, in the next few days, I will make the decision whether to withdraw the court challenge or to pursue it. I have my own views on this and with that, may be next week a decision will be reached which I believe will be an answer to your question.

Royalty and Benefits – Kairuku/Hiri

Mr PETER ISOAIMO – Thank you, Mr Speaker. Thank you for recognising the people of Kairuku-Hiri.

My question is directed to the Minister for Petroleum and Energy.

I wish to thank you for settling the issue of royalty and benefits for my people at the plant site. The government has acknowledged that and through his Ministry paid the royalties to the plant site landowners in my electorate.

Right now my office is inundated with the pipeline landowners from Cape Suckling to Cape Possession, on the border of Gulf and Central provinces.

I want the Minister to explicitly state whether or not these group of landowners along the pipeline are eligible for any payments under the laws in his department or the *Oil and Gas Act*?

Since my office is receiving conflicting information from his department, it is better if the Minister could clarify whether these pipeline landowners have any benefits accruing to them?

If there is, when will they get it?

With regard to UBSA and LBSA, these were agreed to in 2009. When will there be a review on these agreements?

Dr FABIAN POK – Thank you, Mr Speaker. Before I answer the question, on behalf of the people of North Waghi, I want to congratulate the Parliament for electing you as Speaker of Parliament.

On the same token, I wish to congratulate the Prime Minister for his re-election, the Parliament recognised his leadership and accorded him that privilege.

I must also congratulate the Opposition Leader for assuming that role.

On the question from the Member for Kairuku-Hiri on royalties and benefits, I must say that these were decided at Kokopo.

13/04

They decided how much will go to the various landowners starting from where the pipeline flows and where the oil and gas is extracted.

The biggest problem identified now is, when the PNG LNG was commissioned there wasn't a proper clan vetting at that time. That is why it is very difficult to establish who the real landowners to whom the benefits should go to.

Mr Speaker, the royalties and equities belonging to the landowners is locked away in the Central Bank and we are now in the process of identifying the real landowners.

We have started payments to people here because they have already completed the process of identifying who the landowners are. We are working towards the pipeline and they should not be disheartened because they will be paid some royalties. It just that we have to identify where the pipeline flows and comes through who the real landowners are.

The team at the Department of Petroleum and Energy are working on this now as we speak and I am pretty sure the landowners from where the pipeline is coming through will be paid their royalties and equities after when they are identified.

I also take this opportunity to announce that the Government has allocated K3 million to the Department and after Parliament rises or sometimes next week. I will be accompanied by the Vice Minister with a technical team from the Department to sit down with our people from Hides and all the other landowners upstream to go through the process of identifying the landowners properly so that we can be able to pay something.

The K3 million is not enough but we have the backing of the Government. It is allocating money into trying to complete the process of clan vetting and once all that is done through identification and certifying of landowners, they will have access to the royalties and equities which are parked away in the Central Bank.

Many of our landowners upstream have resorted to court battles and court case after court case is really depriving our people from any benefits what so ever.

I appeal to our people to set aside those court battles and we resolve these land issues amicably so that the landowner royalties and equities and benefits can go down to the people.

It is sad to note that because of this court battles, many people are dying before they can receive any benefit whatsoever.

Yes, I assure the Member that royalties and equities of those landowners are parked away safely and it's up to the landowners to organize themselves clan by clan and payments can be authorized and approved. If we don't follow these processes than we will be waiting for another decade.

Let me assure the Member that from eight to ten weeks now we will be addressing those royalties and equity benefits for landowners where the pipelines have come through and we will go upstream from there.

I have written to Exxon Mobil and Kumul Petroleum Holdings so that they all can contribute to carry out this clan vetting exercise.

14/07

Supplementary Question

Review of UBSA-Western province

Mr JAMES DONALD – The UBSA Agreement is almost due so we want to know when there will be a review. Why I am asking is because as you know, Juwah is in the Western Province and my issue has not been addressed so I would like us to review this agreement. You need to let us know when that review will take place so that we can all attend for the benefit of our people.

Dr FABIAN POK – These agreements have lapsed so we have to come up with new agreements for new projects.

Salaries for Councillors

Mr KONI IGUAN – Thank Mr Speaker. Before I ask my question, on behalf of my people of Markham, I congratulate you on becoming the Speaker of Parliament. I also congratulate Honourable Peter O'Neill for retaining the Prime Minister's seat. I was not part of forming your Government but I am now part of your Government having crossed from the Opposition ranks.

I recognise Honourable Patrick Pruaitch as the Opposition Leader with his team in the Opposition benches. I was part of your team in the formation of it as the alternative government. I congratulate all Members in your team who won their respective seats to be here in Parliament. I believe that we have a very good Opposition team who will keep this country on track for the good of all Papua New Guineans.

I would also like to thank my people of Markham to have confidence in me and voted me back into Parliament after being away for a term.

Mr Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister for Finance and it is in relation to our village councillors. I was a former ward councillor, council president and now a Member of Parliament. Our ward councillors like us are elected by the people. When I was away in the last term of Parliament, I know the O'Neill-Dion Government allocated some money for salaries for our ward councillors. I have councillors who have forwarded their bank details for salaries to be paid through it however, they have not gotten paid since then and it is almost their election time.

Mr Minister, can you clarify to the Parliament and our councillors as to when you can pay them especially those ones that have never gotten paid? Can you give us a specific timing when they can get paid before their elections?

Mr Minister, a similar sentiment goes to the village court officers. Most of them have not gotten their allowances. They have contributed immensely to our communities so can you tell this Parliament and the people of Papua New Guinea so to when something can be done to address this issues?

Mr JAMES MARAPE – Let me congratulate the Member for Markham for winning back his seat in the Tenth Parliament. I also thank him for his questions.

Mr Speaker, the O'Neill-Dion Government by way of policy instruments started the ball rolling in recognising the great work that our councillors and village court officers do back in our rural communities.

15/04

We have budgeted for their allowances but let me put on record my view to look into the administrative arrangements in which funds that are budgeted for councillors, council presidents and village court officials gets transferred from the budget to the recipients who are serving in our country.

I think the problem is not lack of allocation on the part of the government but rather the administrative arrangement in which the funds get transferred from Waigani into the respective accounts.

Let me consult with the department responsible, in the instance of councillors the Department of Provincial and Local Level Governments as well as the Department of Attorney-General for us to find a neater, cleaner, tidier way of budgeting and transferring the funds straight to the recipients and those who are serving as councillors and village court officials and I will report back to Parliament in due course.

Energy Policy

Mr RENBO PAITA – Thank you Mr Speaker, thank you for recognising the people of Finchhafen. I was almost tempted to move to another chair to be recognised to ask my questions from there but I thank you.

Firstly, I thank God for choosing me to represent his people from Finchhafen and on the same token, I commend you for your election as Speaker of this Parliament.

On that note, I also congratulate the Prime Minister for his election as well as all the Members elected to this House including regional member for Southern Highlands

My question is directed to the Minister for Petroleum and Energy. Papua New Guinea has been producing oil and gas since the 1990s when we came out of the agriculture based economy.

Since then we have made many reforms within the industry as well and other policy reforms to steer this industry.

From that time up to now, with our first LNG project, I understand there is a lot of controversies within the project as well as lessons to be learnt since we undertook this project leading into the second LNG.

(1) Since then, do we, as a Government have a clear domestic market obligation policy in place or not?

(2) As Minister responsible for energy, we all understand that for the industry to flourish, three major ingredients or prerequisite for the promotion of industrialisation are, cheap raw materials, cheap energy and cheap labour. Do we have a clear energy policy to promote this so that in the future we can promote industrialisation in the country? I believe having access to cheap energy for the country is a way forward.

(3) Do we have a clear energy policy to reduce the price and cost of accessing things like electricity in the country?

Dr FABIAN POK – Thank you Mr Speaker. I wish to thank the Member for Finchhafen and congratulate him again for his win to come to this Tenth Parliament.

I thank him for the questions. A major error committed in the last PNG LNG was that we failed to include a clause in the agreement for domestic market obligation. That is why we do not have gas to venture into power generation as well as downstream processing. All the gas produced under the agreement are for sales.

In the first LNG where people like the Member for Sinasina were advisors, for your information only.

(Members interjecting)

Dr FABIAN POK – But he didn't include a caveat to help his country.

16/04

Mr Salio Waipo – Point of Order! Thank you, Mr Speaker for acknowledging my point of order.

As a Member of Parliament for a second term, I have been seeing in Parliament that this Parliament needs to have respect. I thank the Ministers for answering the questions asked by Members of Parliament. If you have personal issues and name calling in Parliament is not good. We all are learning, we might not have the answers but please do answer questions as asked on the Floor of Parliament. I want respect shown on both sides of the House. And I want the questions asked through the Speaker to be direct and appropriate. I have been sitting down here but I don't want to ask questions because I know Members and Ministers are going to work together. So please when asking questions lets refrain from calling names of people in the

previous Parliament. Let's look forward and onwards, not to go back to the past. If you repeat the past, you will remain as you are. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Dr FABIAN POK – Thank you, Mr Speaker, we have to learn from the past to go to the future.

(Members laughing)

Dr FABIAN POK – That is why I have said the things I said. We cannot just ignore the past faults and continue making mistakes into the future. In the first PNG LNG project, we did not have a clause for domestic market obligation. This is why the land we obtained near the LNG plan remains undeveloped

Mr Bryan Kramer – Point of Order!

Dr FABIAN POK – Can you let me answer the question.

Mr Bryan Kramer – Thank you, Mr Speaker, the reference to the Member for Sinasina-Yonggamugl in relation to the signing of the 2008 gas agreement, does not bear the signature of the Member for Sinasina -Yonggamugl, so making reference to him in relation to the negotiation and signing of that agreement would be improper.

Dr FABIAN POK – Mr Speaker, I did not say he signed the agreement, I said he advised us. So the most important thing is, for a country to grow, we need some domestic gas to use in the power plant which is much cheaper than diesel or hydro.

For example now we want to increase the size of the hydro plant in Ramu. This is the way to go, because it's cheaper to generate electricity through gas or through hydro. But in the first PNG LNG project, there was no clause in that agreement for some percentage of that gas to be used domestically to power the plant or to produce bi-products of gas and that is why we are stuck in this situation.

Currently, the Governments team is negotiating with the developers to ensure that when new gas fields are being developed, such clause will be included to allow for storage of some gas to power up cheap energy in the country because diesel is very expensive. It has not been

done in the past in the PNG LNG project so now we want to do it so that domestic market obligations is included in the agreement.

I want to thank the Prime Minister, who in his own wisdom asked ExxonMobil and they have agreed to build a 100 megawatt power generation station. It's not in the agreement but the Prime Minister was persistent and now they will build it to help the shortage of electricity in Papua New Guinea using gas. But in the long run, when all the gas agreement is done, we will look at domestic market obligation to use the gas for power generation and petrochemical industries. Petrochemical industries are from gas so we can look at producing many bi-products which will be import substitutions and will help our country.

17/04

All the gas are exported rather than processed here for the domestic market but with the Prime Minister's intervention he has allowed us to use some gas to supply 100 megawatts of electricity to Port Moresby.

The two source of very cheap energy is gas and hydro and this Government is very serious about looking at the domestic market obligation and ensure that in the future, some raw gas are kept in the country for downstream processing for electricity generation because electricity supplied by diesel generator is very expensive.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, the question time has lapsed.

MOTION BY LEAVE

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

Leave granted.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS – REARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS

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

That so much of the *Standing Orders* be suspended as would prevent me moving a series of motions relating to the appointments of Assistant Speakers, Members to Permanent Parliamentary Committees and Parliamentary Referral Committees.

ASSISTANT SPEAKERS – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

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

That in accordance with *Standing Order 14*, the following Members be appointed Assistant Speakers:

- (1) Mr John Simon
- (2) Mr Thomas Pelika
- (3) Mr Renbo Paita

PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES ON APPOINTMENTS – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

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

That in accordance with *Standing Order 24B*, Mr Philip Undialu (Chairman), Mr William Powi (Deputy Chairman), Mr Henry Amuli and Mr Richard Masere be appointed members of the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Appointments.

PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES ON BROADCASTING OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

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

That in accordance with *Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act (Chapter 24)*, Mr Speaker (Chairman) ex-officio member, Mr Nakikus Konga (Deputy Chairman), Mr Michael Dua and Mr Lekwa Gure be appointed members of the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings.

**PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL LAWS
AND ACTS AND SUBORDINATE LEGISLATIONS –
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS**

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

That in accordance *Standing Order 24C*, Mr Robert Atiyafa (Chairman), Mr Joe Sungi (Deputy Chairman), Mr Ginson Saonu, Mr Pogio Ghate, Mr Saki Soloma, Sir Peter Ipatas and Henry Amuli be appointed members of the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on *Constitutional Laws and Acts and Subordinate Legislations*.

**PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND TOURISM –
ESTABLISHMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS**

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

That:

(1) this Parliament pursuant to Section 118(1)(b) of the *Constitution* establish a Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Culture and Tourism comprising of Mr Kennedy Wenge (Chairman), Mr Isi Henry Leonard (Deputy Chairman), Mr John Rosso, Mr Johnny Ananias Alonk, Mr Joe Lera, Mr Jimmy Uguro and Mr Salio Waipo be appointed to this Committee.

(2) the functions of the Committee shall be:

(a) to monitor and ensure that the Tourism and Culture Industry is developed in accordance with guidelines and objectives established under the relevant legislation;

(b) to monitor and promote the industry in consultation with other departments, provincial governments, local-level government bodies and other government and private organisations for the purposes of encouraging the development of the industry in line with the Government's overall policy on Tourism and Culture;

(c) to report on any matter relating to the industry that may be referred to it by the Parliament or a Minister; and

(d) to investigate and report such other related matters as the Committee considers appropriate.

18/04

**PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS –
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS**

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

That in accordance with *Standing Order 24(D)*, Mr Robert Agorobe (Chairman), Mr William Onglo (Deputy Chairman), Mr Henry Ame, Mr Chris Nangoi and Mr Ginson Saonu be appointed members of the Permanent Parliament Committee on Economic Affairs.

**PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY –
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS**

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

That in accordance with the *Emergency Committee Act*, Dr Kobby Bomareo (Chairman), Mr Robert Naguri (Deputy Chairman), Mr Johnny Ananias Alonk, Mr William Nakin and Mr Thomas Pelika be appointed members of the Committee.

**PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND DEFENCE – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS**

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

That in accordance with the *Standing Order 24(E)*, Mr Salio Waipo (Chairman), Mr Joe Lera (Deputy Chairman), Mr John Rosso, Mr Peter Sapia and Mr Garry Juffa be appointed members of the Committee.

**PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON LAW AND ORDER –
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS**

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

That in accordance with the *Standing Order 24(F)*, Mr Thomas Pelika (Chairman), Mr Tony Wouwou (Deputy Chairman), Mr Moriape Kavori, Dr Allan Marat and Mr Jimmy Uguro be appointed members of the Committee.

PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

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

That in accordance with the *Standing Order 24(A)*, Mr Speaker (Chairman), Mr William Powi (Deputy Chairman), Mr Chris Haiveta, Mr Peter Numu and Mr William Samb be appointed members of the Committee.

PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT BENEFITS – ESTABLISHMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

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

That:

(a) the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Pensions and Retirement Benefits be established pursuant to the provisions of the *Parliamentary Retirement Benefits Act 1997*;

(b) Mr Sasindran Muthuvel (Chairman), Mr Joe Sungi (Deputy Chairman), Sir Peter Ipatas, and Mr Nakikus Konga be appointed members of the Committee;

(c) the quorum of Committee shall be three; and

(d) the Committee shall have the powers:-

(i) to meet as and when required to ensure that the *Parliamentary Members' Retirement Benefits Act 1997* is properly administered by the Board established thereunder;

(ii) to examine the provisions of the provisions of the *Parliamentary Members' Retirement Benefits Act 1997* and to examine the intention of the motion passed on 14 August 1980 by the Parliament, and to decide whether any changes need to be proposed; and

(iii) to ensure that before each national election, the Parliamentary Members' Benefits Board is ready to pay out monies to Members retiring or who lose office in the election.

PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON PLANS AND ESTIMATES – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

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

(a) That a Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Plans and Estimates be established for the purpose of consulting with the National Executive Council before any budget or appropriation is prepared for submission to the Parliament in accordance with *Section 209(3) of the Constitution*; and

(b) That Mr Luke Gure (Chairman), Mr Renbo Paita (Deputy Chairman) Mr Ross Seymour, Mr Charlie Benjamin be appointed members of the Committee.

**PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BUSINESS –
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS**

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

That in accordance with the *Standing Order 22*, Mr Speaker (Chairman) ex-officio member, Mr Philip Undialu, Mr Powes Parkop, Mr William Powi, Mr Richard Masere be appointed members of the Committee.

19/04

**PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES–
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS**

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

That in accordance with the *Standing Order 20*, Mr Charlie Benjamin (Chairman), Mr William Samb (Deputy Chairman), Dr William Tongamp, Mr Powes Parkop and Mr Joe Sungi be appointed members of the Committee.

**PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS –
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS**

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

That in accordance with the *Public Finances (Management) Act 1995*, Mr Koni Iguan (Chairman), Mr Chris Haiveta (Deputy Chairman), Mr William Powi, Mr John Simon, Mr Pogio Ghathe, Mr Saki Soloma, Mr Robert Naguari and Mr Chris Nangoi be appointed members of the Committee.

**PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS –
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS**

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

That in accordance with the *Public Works Act*, Mr Johnny Ananias Alonk (Chairman), Mr Jeffrey Kama (Deputy Chairman), Mr Toboi Yoto, Mr Robert Aitiyafa and Mr William Samb be appointed members of the Committee.

PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON STANDING ORDERS – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

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

That in accordance with the *Standing Orders 19*, Mr Speaker (Chairman) ex-officio Member, Mr Powes Parkop, Mr Peter Yama, Mr Ginson Saonu be appointed members of the Committee.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday 21 November 2017 at 2 p.m..

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Question proposed –

That the Grievances be noted.

Mr GARRY JUFFA (Northern) – Thank you Mr Speaker, I have a number of issues to discuss during this Grievance Debate.

My first issue relates to the report produced by the Special Parliamentary Committee on the review of the Public Service of which I was the Deputy Chairman. I want to make some comments to this very important report. I also would like to commend the Government for appointing honourable Elias Kapavore as the Minister for the Department of Public Service so that we may see some progress with this very important report.

This Parliamentary Committee was formed with the very important task of conducting a review of the current Public Service machinery that is old and outdated established in 16 September, 1975 which has never been modernised and upgraded, and it is a major impediment to any form of progress in this country. We can come up with the greatest of ideas and we can flood all these ideas with as much funding as we want but the implementation vehicle is the Public Service machinery. If this vehicle is old, outdated and not functioning, then we are not going to get very far for both sides of the House and also to the detrimental of our people.

Most nations upgrade their Public Service machinery every two years. They take stock of the developments in technology and what is happening around in terms best practice, globalisation and so forth, and they react accordingly.

20/04

We have never done this for the last 40 years and that is why we are still wondering around on the promise land; Papua New Guinea wondering around not going anywhere.

That vehicle is not functioning; it is not moving the parts because they rusty and old. That is the reason why this Review Committee was proposed by myself and it was accepted by the Leader of the Government Business who then proposed to the Prime Minister and he agreed that it was a great idea and we needed to do this because it was long overdue so we conducted the review.

This team of astute Parliamentarians and representatives from private and public sectors were selected because of their wealth of experience and knowledge, and together they conducted reviews of four Public Service machineries in the region; Australia, New Zealand, Samoa and Fiji.

And it was quite enlightening to learn to our embracement that Samoa and Fiji; those tiny nations smaller then Gerehu with a fraction of the resources we have were far more advance then we are. Their turnover time is amazing right next to Australia and New Zealand in how they turnover Government business. If you want to get a licence for land for instance in Samoa or Fiji, it is done within days. You don't have to bribe anybody, it is not going to take you months and weeks, and you don't have to go in and out of court.

If you want to get a licence to trade, the same thing. In these country, here, it becomes a mammoth task, and you are tied up and caught up in government red tape and bureaucracy and it frustrates each and every one of us. I know that all of us sitting here are frustrated by having to constantly micro-manage what our public servants are doing. Instead of actually doing the work of the Government leaders or Opposition leaders, legislating, thinking strategically, being innovative, taking advantage of the developments and technology to improve health, education and other sectors in our nation.

So, it is with great satisfaction, I now find that the person who was appointed as the Minister for Public Service was recently the Chairman of that Parliamentary Committee. He is now sitting in that very seat and we are all willing to assist him in helping him modernise this machine because we should not micro-manage like what are public servants are doing.

But if we demand the best of them, then we must also look at their conditions and benefits. To date, the public servants are getting K7.00 a fortnight for housing allowance. For instance, what can you do with K7.00 a fortnight for housing allowance? Tell me, where can you rent anywhere for K7.00 a fortnight. For instance, if they apply for a job in a particular province, accommodation is not a condition of their employment. So, that discourages the best possible brains from being attracted to a particular locations. Therefore, obviously, they set to fail from the very beginning and those particular locations will not get the public servants they deserve to transform an electorate or province.

So where are going to stay, you give them K7.00 housing allowance, and then you don't give them accommodation, who are you trying to attract to go and work in those places?

In our recommendation, we put in some very radical changes and this is reasons why I understand this report has never made it to parliament for the last four years. But I am confident that it will make it this time. And those recommendations will not be acceptable to all, but it is a starting point that we can discuss the most important aspect of developing a nation and that is to have an effective and efficient public service machinery.

Let's look at doing away with the *Public Service Management Act*. It is a cumbersome neo-colonial document. For instance, everybody from teaboy up to CEO should on some performance based contracts, and they should be remunerated accordingly. We should be trying our best to attract the best possible brains into the public service machinery. Why? Because building a nation, determining a nation's future, is the far more important task then turning over profit. The private sector paid far better than the public services, so they get the best brains, we get what's left over or pure nationalists or patriots. Patriotism doesn't put food on the table and it doesn't pay for your kids' school fees

21/04

Then the Public Service so they get the best brains and we get what is left over or pure patriots. Patriotism doesn't pay for the food or pay for your kids' school fees or pay for the K7 housing allowance. Let us look at what changes can be made to this situation. If we want to build a nation than we need the best. If we pay peanuts than we get exactly that. This is the very reason for instance, the public service in Australia, New Zealand, Samoa and Fiji are doing very well simply because they are taking care of their public servants.

Prior to independence in Kokoda, I had an uncle who I used to spend my school holidays with. He had a three bedroom house and had the habit of filling his shirt pocket with

a lot of biros. Every morning around 6.30 am he leaves for work and all of us taught he was the boss for his employer. He had a very big home yard and got paid on time. He drove a vehicle during working hours and parked it at the office when it was close of business. He had a uniform, paid his leave entitlements including all other entitlements but do you know what he was? He was a simple government driver.

Today, directors of our government divisions and departments are living in settlements and villages. If he or she is living in a government house then that house is normally overcrowded with about 10 to 15 people living under the same roof. How do you expect people to be committed to their roles in developing the country when they are living like animals?

These are some pertinent issues that we must address. We can come up with all the Medium Term Goals, 50 year Vision Plans and other grandiose ideas but they will amount to nothing if we don't fix the public service machinery. We must put standards that reflect how much we respect ourselves and our people. When other people come into our country, they will follow suit and operate according to our standards and also respect us. The reason why they don't respect us is because we don't respect ourselves. We do not have standards or even low standards, we are even lower than low standards. How do we expect foreigners to come and respect us when we do not have these standards? It all starts with the public machinery.

My Grievance Debate is that this report must be tabled. We must all come together and work at reforming and rebuilding the public service machinery. Let us make it a modern machine that is powered by nuclear. As is the case today, we are pushing a rusty wheelbarrow in the opposite direction and that is why we are not going anywhere. We have got to pay our public servants what they are worth. If you do not feed your dog properly than it will not guard your yard and wonder all over the place but if you feed it properly than it will take care of your yard.

Finally before I finish, we get a lot of discussions, debates and questions here but can we see all these translated into actionable items and tasks. Can there be some form of Securitate that ensure that they go into some where someone will act upon what is being discussed here.

I can see that the Parliamentary Committees are being formed. In the last term of Parliament one of the problems we faced was that these Parliamentary Committees were poorly funded. They were not funded at all. Let us have them funded so that the true business of Government and Opposition can take place so that we can lead our people as they deserve. Thank you.

22/04

Mr TIMOTHY MASIU (South Bougainville) – Thank you Mr Speaker, I stand here today to talk about my grievances regarding Bougainville.

As you all are aware, the Bougainville Crises which lasted for nearly a decade left billions of kina worth of properties over Bougainville destroyed from 1989 to 1999 and over 20 000 lives were lost, some, as a direct result of the war on the island, some through preventable diseases due to the lack of health supplies due to an economic blockade imposed by the national government at that time and others from social issues like sorcery, ethnic cleansing and others.

This crisis was also compounded by internal crisis in various parts of Bougainville in which local war loads became engaged in fighting or killing our very own people.

Mr Speaker, since the New Zealand Government, the Australian Government and of course, the Papua New Guinea Government, with the help of our Pacific Island neighbours, the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga and other like the United Nations, Bougainville has kept its part of the dealings as far as the Bougainville Peace Agreement signed on the 30 of August 2001 in Arawa and published in the *National Gazette*, number G146 of the 16 of November 2001 is concerned.

This of course is the ultimate culmination of the many agreements, accords, communiques, and understandings between the Government of Papua New Guinea and the Bougainville leaders from both sides, those ones who were supporting the government and the rebel leadership.

The Bougainville Peace Agreement paved the way for peace by peaceful means, something that is highly treasured by the people of Bougainville to this day.

Mr Speaker, to date the people of Bougainville have not, and I say, have not broken any part of this agreement while the PNG Government I can say need to relook at itself.

Bougainville has always been a willing partner in making sure that issues in the Bougainville Peace Agreement are addressed. However, that cannot be said about the PNG Government.

Mr Speaker, I can talk and talk whole day on the events and issues of the Bougainville Conflict but I will not do so except to say that, I was alarmed as well as the people of Bougainville on the issue of referendum which the Prime Minister of this nation, while answering a question on Tuesday this week said and I quote, ‘in 2019 there will be a proposed referendum that is taking place. But I want to make a very clear stand on government position that the referendum is subject to all fulfilment of the obligations clearly stated in the Peace

Agreement. That includes a proper establishment of the rule of law, a proper establishment of government structure in Bougainville and proper disposal of all weapons. So all issues are yet to be met. It is a long way so I don't want Papua New Guinea and Bougainvilleans to think that it is an easy path that we will wake up tomorrow and go have a referendum. It may be such that it won't be possible. So we need to work between now and then to work harder in making sure that we attend to the issues that are clearly defined and stated in the *Peace Agreement*, ' end of quote.

Mr Speaker, I want to say that this statement by the top executive of this nation has sent very worrying signals to the ABG and the people of Bougainville, the stakeholders such as the United Nations Observers on Bougainville and the world community who are and have been monitoring the Bougainville Peace Agreement.

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For me personally, it saddens me, especially at the fact that the well-respected Prime Minister of this country is either ignorant of what is happening on Bougainville since the ceasefire and the signing of the Bougainville Peace Agreement or his succession of Bougainville Affairs Ministers have not been giving him regular updates on the progress Bougainville is making on the three issues he has raised in his reply.

For the Prime Minister and his government, there is already a proper establishment of the rule of law, with the Bougainville Police Service in place, the Bougainville Correctional Services and the Bougainville Courts that are on the ground right now as well as the establishment of the Autonomous Government. The recently held community government elections with the drawdown of public service powers and laws to Bougainville and the enabling acts.

Part 14, division 7 of the Constitution highlights, the structures of Bougainville Government to be contained in Bougainville Constitution.

Mr Speaker, we already have a proper establishment of government structure, in Bougainville. As for the proper disposal of weapons, I admit, we still have weapons in the hands of many Bougainvilleans who are members of the many factions on the island.

Mr Speaker, since the Bougainville Peace Agreement was signed in 2001 and the apparent containment of weapons that took place immediately after that up until today, whatever guns that remains in the hands of individuals in Bougainville have fallen silent. There is no record of fights or death so far relating to gun violence. In Papua New Guinea the guns are in the hands of criminals and these weapons are used to shoot people.

During the Election period in Bougainville, there was no use of guns to decide the winner of the election. In Papua New Guinea, many people died from gun violence in the Highlands during the Election period. Therefore, I want us all to know that we the Bougainvilleans, respect the Peace Agreement and we will stand by that Agreement.

The latest killing in Papua New Guinea happened to a friend of mine who was shot inside Port Moresby city. He was also a friend to many people from Bougainville. This is worse when Papua New Guinea cannot control firearms in the hands of individuals who are not licensed and are using these weapons for arm robberies every day.

Mr Speaker, the Powi National Parliamentary Bipartisan committee on Bougainville headed by Honourable William Powi, is still yet to report to Parliament of its findings and until that is done, this Parliament will not know what the majority of Bougainvilleans think on the issue of weapons disposal and referendum and good governance.

Mr Speaker, as a way forward, the Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) which discussed many pressing issues on Bougainville as envisaged by the Bougainville Peace Agreement has been lagging behind for reasons only known to Government.

There are many resolutions that are still hanging for the National Government to address

Mr Speaker, the Bougainville Referendum Commission has been established and just some weeks ago the Bougainville Referendum Commission Charter was officially signed by His Excellency, the Governor General at Government House.

Mr Speaker, the aim of the Charter being established is for Bougainville Referendum Commission to become the agency through which the referendum is to be conducted in accordance with the *Organic Law* on Peace Building in Bougainville, Autonomous Region, Bougainville Government and Bougainville Referendum especially schedule one on a date agreed after consultation between the Government of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea and the Autonomous Bougainville Government but not later than 15 June 2020.

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Nothing nor persons is above the law to defer this referendum from taking place. The people of Bougainville are looking forward to it and strongly urge the national government to provide the support through funding in the 2018 National Budget for Bougainville Referendum Commission to carry out its responsibilities and to make sure Bougainville is ready for this historic event.

Mr SPEAKER -The Deputy Opposition Leader, your time is up so you can seek leave of Parliament to have your statement incorporated in the Hansard.

Mr TIMOTHY MASIU (South Bougainville) - I ask leave of the Parliament incorporate the rest of my statement in the Hansard.

Leave granted.

The rest of the speech reads as follows:

Thank you Mr Speaker, leading up to the referendum the ABG is embarking on a guns tree and referendum ready strategy to get all constituencies on Bougainville to make sure weapons (guns) are surrendered to make it safe for the implementation of the referendum. On top of that many reconciliations are taking place in the communities between the victims and the perpetrators.

The ABG through the Ministry of Referendum, Peace Implementation are planning reconciliations between and amongst Bougainville's themselves in the three regions of North, Central and South while at the same time reconciliations with the PNG Government, the PNG Defence Force, the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary and the Correctional Services of Papua New Guinea. Also with other Papua New Guineans who lost their loved ones in Bougainville during the crisis.

Mr Speaker, the Bougainville issues brought this country to its knees when the Panguna Mine was literally closed and thousands of workers laid off while the government suffered immense loss. However I am happy to say that we are a resilient people and will one day rise up from the ruins of poverty to be a people who can make a difference to this country. Don't forget it was Panguna that brought forward this nation in its infancy days.

And it's not fair for the PNG Government not to reciprocate and retain service in making sure Bougainville and her people are given what is rightfully ours as we aspire for Independence in the years to come, but through peaceful means.

Thankyou Mr Speaker.

Mr WAKE GOI (Jimi) - Thank you Mr Speaker. The recent national elections was a chaos. I am very concerned here. Firstly, does the Electoral Commissioner has powers to advertise the positions of a Returning Officer and the Assistant Returning Officer? If so, then

I think, proper procedures and selections should be conducted before appointments can be done.

The applicants should go through the first screening process, the second screening process, the third screening process before final appointments can be done.

Mr Speaker, my second concern is on the boundary. Some electorates are bigger than others and are less populated or have small land mass and are over populated. Some electorates have over 70 thousand eligible voters but our people are still living in very remote and isolated areas where services delivery can be very difficult. It is therefore, either very expensive to deliver services to them due to no road access.

Mr Speaker, this is a sad situation because our people out there will probably continue to live like that and die. Therefore, this is a concern that we should all consider. We need to correct this by re-marking the boundaries so that equal opportunities can be given to all citizens.

Mr Speaker, my other concern about on the potholes throughout the cities which is an eyesore to the travelling tourists and very unattractive to the investors. I think, Port Moresby city is a bit okay, but we should give power to the town authorities in other centres so that they can fix that problem. I was brought up by the missionaries and I would like to live in a good environment and I am sure the rest of the population would want the same too.

Mr Speaker, since law and order issue is still a major problem, I believe. It is important to give proper training to our policemen and women. We need to strengthen this area and improve the Criminal Investigation Division within the Police Department. I am saying this because sometimes proper procedures are not followed for the cases within the committal courts in the country and so lawbreakers are not dealt with accordingly.

I suggest we extend the training period from 6 months to 1 years before any policemen or women can pass-out or graduate from the training college.

Mr Speaker, the 6 months training is not enough. We need to give them 1 year training. They must be fully equipped and understand the laws, rules and regulations of the land, and most importantly learn their code of conduct so that they can carry out their duties with honesty and without fear or favour.

Mr Speaker, Papua New Guinea is a very beautiful country. Amongst the good and hardworking citizens there are some lazy people too. People who do not care about the laws and regulations of the land. People who take part in corrupt activities. Some of them take drugs and do not care about their lives nor people around them. So how can we control such behaviour? We need to equip the Police Department so that we can collectively fight corruption and put an end to such behaviour.

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Many of our youths cannot respect the law, because their brains are not affected because of taking dangerous drugs like marijuana. If we members are not careful then they might harm us. They carry dangerous weapons like bush knives or even shoot us with guns and even put up road blocks. These are serious and real issues which is really affecting this country very much and we as members have to look at it.

In conclusion, the other issue that I want to elaborate on is the retirement benefits; it's true some of us members might die through heart attack or many other ways. The law stipulates clearly that after ten years our wives are entitled for pensions. But before that they cannot benefit from it.

We must reconsider our *Retirement Benefit Act*, for instances, if I die now then my wife should continue with whatever benefit I am entitled for and not to wait after ten years. She was my helper in making sure that the wellbeing of my voters were taken care of by cooking food for them and that's why I am here in this Parliament.

If we don't readjust the *Act* then ten years is too long. Whatever, benefits that we get must be automatically transferred to our wives once we die, they must not wait till after ten years. Election is a game and you are entitled five years to be in Parliament and once it's over then there is uncertainty whether to lose or win.

This is one of the issue that bothers me very much so it's good I brought it up so we can come up with a good result. It's no good keeping it and dying with it.

Mr RENBO PAITA (Finschhafen) – Thankyou Mr Speaker, for recognising me the second time to share my sentiments.

One of the major issue where it's been ongoing is the issue of police brutality. Mr Speaker, Parliament seriously needs to sit down and address this issue now.

In this country, after being in private life and coming into public life now, our people who are naturalised citizens of this country have this great fear in them to live in their own country. Nowadays, you see so many security companies popping up in this country. That industry is booming very fast and it is worth about K1.2 million according to a report.

Why security companies are booming because it indicates to us that the public and private have lost confidence with our police force. One main issue now is that when there is fighting going on in major cities and towns, you will notice that instead of citizens running to police personnel to take refuge, they run away from them. That's the kind of mistrust feeling

which our people feel with our police. There are a lot of police brutality cases being ignored in the country.

Apart from infrastructures, the main core issue that the Government must provide is the sense of security for our citizens of this country because they are entitled for it by the *Constitution*. It's been an ongoing issue and we have tried our best to address it for a long time but not so much has been done in terms of effectively addressing police brutality.

As we the leaders of this 10th Parliament must make an ambitious attempt to really address police brutality in the country. If there needs to be reform then, we all must support it.

In reality, you will notice that a lot of residences are fenced with barbwire and also they get scared of living in their own country. If we are scared of living here where else can we go? If need be to restructure our police force then we have to and recruiting must go through a process for competent police officers to discharge their responsibilities.

Since, I became member I have access to police escorting me and I am driving a car where people know me

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I am now a Member and have the privilege of police escorts. As I drive around people know and respect me but the normal day-to-day people who access public transportation are vulnerable to this ongoing acts of petty crimes.

So, I feel that we as must make an attempt to stop this so that our own people must have a sense of security that they are free to live in their own country without fear. To this day, I have been told by many people that they are afraid to live in their own country. And the people who have access to travel overseas went ahead and migrated from the country. It is only the ordinary people who have no access to security protection that remain in the country.

The police force has also become a private security force for people who have money. There is a segment within the force that is acting as if they are security firms for individuals or companies. We must take some strong effort as a government and as leaders to address this issue. If we do not do that, the people will suffer.

We are a bit alright, when we move around we have some sense of security. But for our people who are not on this level it is a different story. I feel that we should address the issue of police brutality once and for all. It must stop.

The second point before I sit down is this, I see that our police force has become a bit racist. There is racism within the police force. For our own people, normal citizens, they give a different treatment and they give another kind of treatment to foreigners and expatriates. We

are categorising our people. This practice must cease so that we are equally treating our people. They have a tendency to respond quickly to foreigners and expatriates but for our own people they will demand for fuel money or 'luksave' money. Something must be paid before a patrol car can be dispensed to attend to the crime. That is the level of service that the force is giving now.

So, we really need to address the issue before our people suffer more as it will impact our country in a big way. It does not auger well for our country in the eyes of our foreign friends.

This has been something close to my heart while I was outside and I thought that if I ever get a chance to be in Parliament that would be one of the immediate issues I will attend to and so I thank you for the opportunity to speak my mind on this issue.

Mr LEKWA GURE (Rigo) – Thank you Mr Speaker, I want to talk about an issue that has been talked about by some of our leaders in this Session of Parliament which is also in-line with what the honourable Governor of Northern talked about in terms of service delivery to our people.

We have the three levels of government. The national government, the provincial government and the local-level government. Now, on the relationship between the national government and the provincial government, there is no issues but there is an issue between the provincial government and the local-level government.

There is an apparent disconnection between these two levels of government, the provincial government and the local-level government and in between we have the district and the District Development Authority or the DDA.

The issue is one of capacity which was talked about by one of our leaders. We have districts making decisions, the political head being the head of the DDA and the CEO and all the sector managers are at the district levels.

Now, if there are decisions made that needs to be implemented by the local-level government the problem arises that the local-level governments do not have the capacities to implement those decisions.

We have the president and we also have the ward members but there is no technical capacity within the LLGs to implement those decisions. So, I will leave it at that. There seems to be a real disconnection between the provincial and the local-level governments and the district sitting in between.

But the issue that I want to raise in this debate is one of the legalities. In accordance with the Organic Law on Provincial and Local Level Governments, particularly Section 42 as it applies to provincial governments and Section 44 as it applies to local level governments.

Those two sections provide for provincial governments and local level governments to write laws for them to operate under.

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I understand that at this point in time there are only two provinces throughout Papua New Guinea that have appropriate laws under which they operate apart from the rest of the provinces and LLGs.

In a nutshell all the provinces in this country would be operating illegally. They don't have appropriate laws written under which they can operate from.

Those laws also provides for them to generate their own revenues. If they don't have the appropriate laws, how are they doing that legally?

That is my issue I am bringing to this Parliament.

Motion – That the grievance be noted – agreed to

ADJOURNMENT

Motion (by **Mr Wesley Nukundj**) agreed to –

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 1.p.m..