

FIRST DAY

Tuesday 21 November 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

FIRST DAY

Tuesday 21 November 2017

The Parliament met at 2 p.m. according to the Terms of Resolution of 28 September 2017.

The Speaker (**Mr Job Pomat**) took the Chair.

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 2.36 p.m., and invited the Member for Markham, **Honourable Koni Iguan** to say Prayers:

'Dear Lord our Father, we thank you for everything that you have brought upon us. Thank you for the blessings that you have given us. We thank you for appointing us to represent our people in this Honourable House and say the Lord's Prayer together. Amen.'

BROADCASTING OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS – STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, I have to inform the Parliament that I have approved:

(a) *The National Broadcasting Corporation* (NBC) to broadcast and televise live Question Time;

(b) *EMTV* to televise live Question Time,

(c) *TVWAN* to broadcast live Question Time for the duration of this Meeting for news purposes only.

QUESTIONS

Explain Disbanding of Task Force Sweep

Sir MEKERE MORAUTA – I direct my questions to the Prime Minister.

Mr Prime Minister, in 2011 you establish Task Force Sweep headed by a clever and upright Papua New Guinean lawyer, Mr Sam Koim to investigate cases of corruption and abuse of public moneys.

Senior Officials from many departments including Health and Planning were prosecuted and a number of them went to jail and remain still residents of Bomana. The public applauded the actions of the Task Force Sweep which clearly was having a success in the fight against corruption.

My questions are as follows;

(1) Why then after you returned to power in 2012 Elections, did you change your mind and start withholding funds from the Task Force Sweep?

(2) Why did you later close it altogether?

(3) Why did you get the Police Commissioner to go to Court to throw out all the cases the Task Force Sweep had investigated? Was it because it was a threat to you?

After attacking the Task Force Sweep, you then turned on your hand on the Fraud Squad and Anti-Corruption Directorate.

(4) Prime Minister, why?

02/01

(5) Why did you request the Police Commissioner to close the Office of the Fraud Squad for a period and suspend, lockout and cease files?

Mr Prime Minister, given the amount in publicly known cases of corruption and the Anti-Corruption Director's statement that in 2016 alone, reported cases of official corruption amounted to more than K1.5 billion.

(6) In the face of that, will you reinstate Task Force Sweep and take measures to strengthen the anti-corruption and fraud squad?

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I thank the good Member for Moresby North-West for his questions.

Mr Speaker, yes, it is true that we established the Task Force Sweep and he was a member of Cabinet when we established that. Mr Speaker, it was an inter-government agency to investigate specific issues at National Planning in the massive corruption that took place there especially in two programs; the National Agriculture Development Program and the RESI Program where hundreds of millions of public money was stolen and spent without any procurement processes and of course were mismanaged in many cases.

But, Mr Speaker, subsequent to that the Task Force Sweep became too political, targeting political leaders when it was not authorised to do so. That is why we decided to introduce the ICAC Bill to replace that.

Mr Speaker, we could not muster the numbers in the last session of Parliament and that is why it was on the Notice Paper but it will be reintroduced in this Parliament. I urge the Member for Moresby North-West to vote on it when it is reintroduced in Parliament.

Mr Speaker, the second issue is that I have no authority or whatsoever to give directions to the Police Commissioner and there is no direction from me or Cabinet to shut down the Fraud Squad. Mr Speaker, these matters have been dealt with in Court and many Court decisions have justified Government's position to date.

We have said all along that any leader who wants to accuse any other leader in these Parliament should produce evidence. It is easy to accuse any member of this Cabinet including myself and if you have evidence that a toea has been misused then fine, we will resign tomorrow. That is the challenge we have put in 2012 and nobody has to date proved any evidence whatsoever.

Mr Speaker, I urge the honourable Member to support the ICAC Bill when it is reintroduced,

Thank you.

Online Section of Tertiary Students/Establish University in Bougainville

Mr JOE LERA – Thank you, Mr Speaker, I have two questions that I would like to direct to the Minister of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology.

My first question concerns the recent media report regarding online selection of tertiary students.

(1) Can the Minister kindly explain to Parliament and the people of Papua New Guinea, what online selection means?

(2) Can the Minister and the Government consider establishing a university in Bougainville in the current political contexts and also help Bougainville to train new elites and

at the same time narrow the gap that was created by the 15-year crisis in the production of its professionals?

Because at the moment not having institutions and not having enough tertiary educated people is having negative impact on politics and public service where efficiency and productivity is very low.

03/01

Mr PILA NINIGI – Thankyou Mr Speaker and thankyou Governor of Bougainville. This is a question that has been on the minds of parents for a long time. The Department has taken steps to minimise corruption in terms of selections. What we have done is the computer software is programmed to select students. On 13 December 2017, I will press the button and you will know how many students have been selected and to which institutions. At the moment, they don't know; they are codes and the students are not known by their names. For students with popular names, for example, a student by the name Pila Ninigi, when the Ninigi name appears, the selectors may show favouritism but now, we will avoid this as all students are given a number and nobody will know the students until 13 December 2017 when the selection is done using a computer software.

The Prime Minister has given directions and this Government has taken steps to avoid corrupt selection. I want to assure Papua New Guineans that for students to go to University, they must study hard in order to be eligible for selection done by the computer software which cannot be bribed.

As for the question regarding the university for Bougainville, yes it is one of the concerns we have for Bougainville but a university cannot be established without groundwork. You have to provide the land and that is when you will be given a university. But we have a long way to go and I appreciate your concern and we all can work together to establish a university including the Deputy Opposition Leader. This Government's intention is also to establish a university in Bougainville.

Table Investigation Report on Non-CMCF Funds

Mr JAMES DONALD – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I wish to direct my questions to the Prime Minister and I ask that the Minister responsible for Mineral Policy, Geo-hazard Management also take note.

Mr Speaker, the Prime Minister gave an undertaking to our then late Deputy Speaker, the late Aide Ganasi in February 2014 to set up an investigation to look into the grand scale abuse of non-CMCA funds belonging to the people of Western Province, particularly his directive to investigate the questionable purchase of a second-hand vessel for South Fly District at an unbelievable price.

Mr Speaker, we are aware that such an investigation was commissioned by the then Chief Secretary, the late Sir Manasupe Zurenuoc and the final investigation report has been done and ready for tabling for some time now. We have sighted a copy and let me prove to the House, we have sighted a copy, it's here.

Mr Speaker, my two simple questions are, for the benefit of the people of Western Province.

(1) Can the Prime Minister have this report tabled in Parliament without further delays? Thus, the report can be made available to agencies such as Police and Anti-Fraud Unit to take appropriate actions against individuals found to have defrauded our people off their money.

04/01

(2) Where is the second-hand boat that was purposely bought for South Fly?

(3) Can the Prime Minister instruct the Minister and his Department to provide us an update on the status of this Vessel?

Mr PETER O'NEILL – Mr Speaker, I thank the Member for North Fly for his very important questions.

Mr Speaker, in the last session of Parliament these issues were brought up where non-CMCA and CMCA Funds and all other funds that relate and for the people of Western Province have been constantly misused, abused and stolen by many people who claim to be do-gooders for Western Province.

I will see where the officials have kept the file away from me and have not sighted the report myself and I am pleased that he has asked the question. And I will table this report in this Parliament before this Parliament rises.

Secondly, I want to assure the honourable Member that I intent to extend the investigation to other agencies that were supposed to serve the people of Western Province.

Mr Speaker, we are not talking about one to two million kina but in hundreds of millions of kina stolen by people who were entrusted to serve the people of Western Province.

But I will investigate and inform this Parliament as soon as possible.

Four-Lane Road to Nadzab Airport

Mr KENNEDY WENGE – Mr Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister for Works and Implementation but before I do, I want to thank the Minister for a good road network starting from Bugandi to Ten Mile Junction of Wau-Bulolo.

Does your department have any plans in place to extend the road from the Junction to Nadzab Airport into a four-way lane road?

Mr MICHAEL NALI – Mr Speaker, I thank the honourable Member for his question. The particular section of the road which he is referring to starting from Nine Mile turn-off to Wau/Bulolo and the road leading up to Nadzab Airport has already been committed by the Government. Not only the roads in Lae but other four cities in our country as well including Port Moresby, Lae, Kokopo and Mount Hagen. The current Government led by Peter O'Neill has visions and plans in place to fix up the road network in the four main cities in this country. The main sections of the road considered are from the main city centre to the airports which must be upgraded to four lane roads.

The specific question which the Member is asking is already in this program. And second phase of it has already been contracted and as soon as we establish our funding we will complete the road starting from Nine Mile to Nadzab Airport.

Supplementary Questions

K10 million Madang Road Project

Mr PETER YAMA – Mr Speaker, I want to direct my supplementary question to the Minister for Works and Implementation.

I sent a letter to the Department of Finance and Rural Development in relation to a K10 million to be committed to the roads in Madang. And the contract has been awarded to a same contractor who has been awarded seven times with this same contract to fix the roads in Madang town.

05/01

The road from the airport to the wharf in Madang is a declared national road under the Transport Department's declaration. The internal roads in Madang come under my government as well as the Member for Madang since they are in the Madang Electorate.

For any roads in Madang there must be a scope of works as well as a clear definition of how we are going to patch the roads in a means of looking after our town.

But the contractor who continues to maintain all the minor roads in Madang to the value of K10 million which was secured by dubious means, upon enquiry I was told that they may have secured it through settlement expediency or some other ways without actually going through the process of Central Supplies and Tenders Board.

Can the Minister inform us about that K10 million because as I have mentioned in the last Meeting of Parliament, potholes in Madang has reduced Madang's beautiful status. Yes, money is short in the country but that kind of money can be managed to upgrade the roads to be APEC compliant through the construction of double lane or four-lane roads as done in Lae. We can build the road from the airport to the town and relocate the Kerema and Sepik people living there so that Madang can be established as one of the towns in Papua New Guinea.

If you look at Madang, it is more beautiful than any of your provinces, God created Madang as the best province among all your provinces so we must make it beautiful and ensure that it becomes a model project.

Prime Minister, You too must take note, do not invest money into a few areas only but distribute the money fairly. If you want to make Madang as a model province, and if you look at Madang amongst East Sepik, West Sepik and Morobe, Madang is the centre. It is the centre of the Highlands and Momase regions.

Mr SPEAKER – Governor of Madang, can you ask your question?

Mr PETER YAMA – Yes, my question ends on this note.

Mr MICHAEL NALI – Thank you Governor for Madang for your question. I am aware of a particular contract that has been awarded to upgrade the town roads in Madang. The contract has been awarded but we have not given the contractor the right to take possession of the site to begin work.

I don't think any contractor got K10 million during my time. No company can get paid for nothing. On my list there are four roads there but funding has not been disbursed yet.

He has not mentioned any companies so I have no idea which company he is referring to but to my knowledge I know that a contract was awarded to a particular company but I am not in a hurry to move forward because I have some queries. I want to make sure that contracts are awarded to companies that can do good jobs with the limited cash that we have.

So, honourable Governor, I will seek clarification from the secretary who will investigate and if it is true that a company has been awarded any payments without doing any work then we will address that through the normal process but as far as I am concerned I don't think any companies have been paid K10 million during my time.

National Agriculture Development Program – Abuse of Funds

Mr GARRY JUFFA – Thank you Mr Speaker, my questions are directed to the Minister for Agriculture.

Not so long ago, we witnessed an Agriculture Summit at the Lamana Hotel which was a commendable effort from the industry and the Government but my question covers the period from 2007 to 2012 where almost K750 million was misused by certain individuals and companies. The good Minister for Treasury was the Minister for Planning at that time and he tabled a report in which he named the perpetrators of this crime which stole that money and as a result our farmers and landowners were deprived of the opportunity to be part of this great program.

06/01

My questions are as follows;

(1) With the Government giving attention to the agriculture sector now, what guarantee is there for the genuine farmers and landowners that those same culprits will not come around the second time and lodge their same fraudulent documents and rob this good genuine program?

(2) Can the Minister inform the people of this country whether his Department have some measures like a blacklist to start with, so that those individuals or companies involved in this theft of K750 million can be accountable for their actions?

(3) Can the Minister also inform this Parliament and the people of this country whether there will be an inquiry into this program to investigate individuals and companies who have benefitted and obtained monies from this program unlawfully, and even some of them have been paid amassing in the millions of kina are still walking the streets and are preparing themselves to come back and benefit from this program again?

Funding for OPIC

In regards to the Oil Palm Industry Corporation (OPIC), I would like to ask the Prime Minister to take note as well because of an appeal by oil palm growers to appoint a Board and this issue is still outstanding.

One of the biggest problems faced by Oil Palm Industry Corporation is that it does not receive funding to assist with maintenance and repairing of feeder roads in Oil Palm growing provinces for village growers and smallholders.

Major companies who go into villages to buy and transport these fruits don't give priority to village growers and smallholders, they pick their fruits last which means, the value of the fruits depreciates and the poor farmers don't get their worth of the fruits.

(4) Can the Minister confirm to this Parliament and the people of this country when will they appoint a new Oil Palm Industry Corporation Board?

(5) Can the Minister also inform Parliament whether or not this Government has part of its intervention in agriculture, allocate some monies to the Oil Palm Industry Corporation to help assist our village farmers and smallholders in Oil Palm Provinces?

Mr BENNY ALLAN – Mr Speaker, I thank the good Governor of Northern Province for his questions.

In regards to his first questions on the K750 million which the National Government allocated in 2012 under the National Agriculture Development Program to assist our farmers; it was a good program to help rehabilitate the coffee plantations, rubber plantations and all the other commodities.

That funding was allocated with good intentions in the previous Governments prior to 2012.

The Prime Minister has answered part of the Governor's question where an investigation is taking place and finding will soon be tabled so that this Parliament and the people of this country can be informed of those companies and individuals who were involved and what measures that need to be taken.

Mr Speaker at that time, we saw too many '*paper farmers*' who were not involved with Coffee, Rubber, Cocoa and oil palm but carried envelopes and papers up and down the corridors of Waigani resulting in so much monies going missing.

I agree with the Northern Province Governor's sentiments that many of this country's farmers did not benefit in the rural areas, but the Prime Minister has given an undertaking to investigate the matter and table the report and implicate those involved.

07/01

With regard to his questions about OPIC, at this point in time, there is no OPIC Board. We only have an Interim Board. I do not know why they have not appointed one. It is a very important commodity and it is about time this issue is addressed.

I would like to inform Parliament and the people of Papua New Guinea, especially those who are involved with our commodities such as coffee, rubber, oil palm and many others. We have started the process of appointing a Board. We are looking at appointing full Boards for all these commodities. We are also looking at whether or not the current Boards that we have are following the processes and the Acts that we have. Cocoa Board is another that is outstanding. There are many people who are involved in oil palm and cocoa who are raising concerns through the Agriculture Summit that we had this week. People really want to know when we are going to have those Boards so we are going to address these issues once and for all.

We have started the processes already and by next year, we should have all the Commodity Boards. On those Boards will be people who have experience with dealing with specific commodities. We will not be entertaining just anybody to go and occupy those positions. We are going to recruit the most qualified people to occupy those positions so that we can move the agriculture sector forward.

Honourable Governor, I do thank you for your support in moving the agriculture sector.

Mr Speaker, before I finish, I would like to say that we have two important programs under the agriculture sector. This Government has given priority to the agriculture sector. One is the rehabilitation of the plantations of all commodities. Through our Boards we are going to identify which commodities and rehabilitate accordingly. We are going to consult each provinces and district and work with them. We are going to start all these next year.

We ask the Governors and each district to support us and participate in this important programme. The other issue that we want to address is the issue of nurseries. We need to increase our production of our commodities. We must set a target within our districts and partner with our Commodity Boards.

For example, with coffee, the CIC Board runs nursery programmes therefore, we should counterpart with that Board and also with other relevant Boards.

I would like to ask you as Members of Parliament to allocate some funds under the DSIP to support these programmes. We should at least contribute a fraction of our DSIP Funds for the benefit our people so that we work with our respective Commodity Boards to increase

our production and grow our economy. The agriculture sector is an important sector that this Government has taken the stand to support it. We need all the support from you Members of Parliament to grow the agriculture sector.

08/01

Supplementary Question

Agriculture Decrease Number of Commodity Boards

Mr JOE SUNGI – I have a supplementary to ask the Minister for Agriculture and Livestock.

Mr Speaker, before, when we had the Department of Primary Industry with one department and one minister, it was very easy for work to reach the farmers level for production to occur but today, we have so many Boards. The Agriculture Sector is over governed by so many Commodity Boards so most of the funds that is allocated to this sector is spent on paying the Chairmen, Directors, Managing Directors of each Board.

Mr Speaker, I come from the agriculture sector and I think the biggest problem we are facing is that we have created many Boards which is actually eating up all the money that is supposed to be growing the agriculture sector.

(1) Does the Minister have any plans to get rid of all these Boards and have one single line back to the Department of Agriculture and Livestock to control and make sure that we go down to the farm level?

(2) If the Minister doesn't have any plans then can he assure this Parliament that he can reduce or get rid of some of these Boards?

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr BENNY ALLAN – I thank the Member for Nuku for this question. Before I respond to his questions, I wish to go back to the OPIC roads which the Governor asked about and I did not respond. In the next year's budget, we will allocate some money aside to maintain these roads.

The other idea that the Government is considering is to revive the plantations through the National Plantation Management Agency. Cabinet has already approved the idea because many a times, we talk about paper farmers and when funds are allocated to my Department or National Planning office, many people submit their proposals. We are trying to avoid paper

farmers so that all the funds will be put through the National Plantation Agency and they will work with the respective Commodity Boards to rehabilitate our plantations.

Coming back to the Member's question, which is a very good question because today, we were talking about Commodity Boards. We have seven to eight Commodity Boards so, when I got into office, I was trying to meet with all the Commodity Boards they were just too many and it took a lot of time. Some even said that they do not have Boards and wanted to meet with me so, yes, I do agree that there are too many Boards.

But we have started the processes of reviewing some Acts which are outdated and we are also looking into merging the Commodity Boards like the Spice and Rubber Boards. These are two small Boards which have a low production level compared to the Coffee or Cocoa Boards which have a high level of production in the country, so the smaller boards can be merged. We are trying to merge two to three Commodity Boards together so it can be easier to manage.

09/01

This idea of merging the Commodity Boards down to two or three to oversee all these is in the plan. We are working with the Department to reduce the number of Commodity Boards to make it more effective and transparent. As for funding, all the Commodity Boards require funding to meet and travel and it is such a huge task to look after the Commodity Boards. So we have started the process so thanks for asking.

Kiunga – Upgrade Defence Force Base

Mr TOBOI YOTO – Thank you, Mr Speaker, I wish to direct my questions to the Minister for Defence and I ask the Minister for Police to take note.

Mr Speaker, I represent a Province that shares common sea and land boundaries with two countries namely Australia and Indonesia. A lot of illegal activities are taking place along these borders and they are going unabated due to lack of proper civilians and capacity to support operations in Western Province. I am keen to hear from the Minister if he has any plans for my Province.

(1) Does the Minister have any plans to upgrade the current Defence Force operating base in Kiunga to fully fledged barracks status?

Daru – Establish Naval Base and Police Barracks

(2) Can the Minister consider setting up a naval base in Daru along the same vein? He could perhaps talk to the Police Minister to consider setting up a permanent Police Barracks to complement the role of Defence Force in maintaining border security in my Province?

Mr SOLAN MIRISIM – Let me thank the Governor of Western Province for the very good questions. Border Security is a major agenda to Defence Force in the country. Border protection is a core function. When I took office, I made it my business to visit all the units around the country. The Governor would know as we both come from border districts and border provinces. Western Province and West Sepik Province share their border with Indonesia and the Government has devoted a lot of attention to securing that border. Yes, there are times when illegal activities such as human trafficking, and drug and gun smuggling do happen. We are getting to the bottom of this problem by establishing sections starting from West Sepik at Wutung to Green River. We have deployed troops to set up sections. We also plan to extend to Western Province. We have a base in Mohed and we are sending our troops into Wiyam border. This is a swampy area and when it rains it's difficult to move around in that area. So we have started this operation. We are also preparing for the APEC Meeting and border security is a major focus area for this Government.

Secondly, about FOB in Kiunga Forward Base, we have planned in the Defence White Paper 2013 and the Government's Vision 2020 aims to increase the number of Defence personnel up to 10 000 manpower and when this happens, we will have to increase the unit. So the Kiunga FOB will be upgraded to a Barrack.

10/01

Therefore, I ask the Governor of Western Province to allocate some funds from CMCA so that this base will be converted into a Military Unit so that we can have a big unit there. Currently, Kiunga FOB is under the command of Taurama 1PIR and when crisis arise, soldiers from the main base here in Taurama will respond but then it's going to take a lot of time because of the distance.

So what we are planning now is to convert Kiunga FOB to Unit Level and we want assistance from the Governor by allocating some funds for it so that we can fix this problem.

In relation to the Naval Base, there is a point at Bula in Daru, where most of our people from the Highlands provinces normally conduct their illegal activities such as smuggling of guns from outside world through this particular point.

Therefore, we are planning to set up a Naval Base there so that military officers will monitor this point using dinghies to patrol the border areas. The plans are already in place and all we need is collective efforts put by all of us to provide the services needed to protect the border area.

Establish Embassies in Israel and Turkey

Mr TOMAIT KAPILI – Mr Speaker, I want to ask my question to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Mr Speaker, as we all know, PNG is considered a Christian Country. With that in mind, in every session of Parliament, we pray to the Lord to guide us in everything we do before we start the day's program.

And too we have the Bible which is seated before us which contains both the New and Old Testaments. There are two important countries in the World which has biblical connections dating back to before Birth of Christ and after Death of Christ and they are Israel and Turkey. Israel is frequently visited by our Christians here in PNG, just to pay pilgrimage and homage to the place of Birth and Death of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The other country is Turkey and it's a country which connects Eastern world with Western world, and it also dates back to the Bible indicating trade routes of the New and Old Testaments. If you read the Bible it confirms that.

Mr Speaker, we consider PNG as a Christian country but yet we don't have diplomatic missions in these countries. If we do not have funds, why don't we consider removing some of the non-functioning Embassies from other countries and establish Embassies in both these two countries?

11/01

Mr RIMBINK PATO – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the honourable Member for Lagaip-Porgera for this very important question.

As I have told this Parliament on many occasions, particularly in the last term of Parliament, Papua New Guinea Foreign Policy is to connect the country to all parts of the world. And important in this context is the two countries that the honourable Member referred to; the Republic of Turkey and Israel.

Of course during the State visit of the Prime Minister in 2013, I accompanied the Prime Minister and on that occasion we signed an agreement with the Government of Israel that

allowed Israeli citizens to come to Papua New Guinea on a visa free basis while we are also permitted to visit that country on the same basis for the reasons that he has put forward.

That means that when we are seeking to establish diplomatic missions, they be embassies or high commissions or consulates there must be different aspects to be considered. One of them is the trade and investments between those countries and our country so that in economic and investment terms there is a justification for us to establish a mission in that country because of the trade or investment portfolio.

At this point in time all I am saying is that we need to look at all the issues very carefully. There was a decision made to establish, and I covered this in a previous statement to the Parliament that a mission would be established in Israel. However, we've got to look at the financial position of the country, look at the position of our nation in the context of trade and investment before we take the step to establish such an embassy because running an embassy is an expensive business. Because today, all our payments for the offices, whether they be salaries and entitlements or lease of office spaces, they are all based on the US dollar.

And because of the economic situation or circumstances that we are all faced with and the position of the PNG kina as against international currencies we have to be very careful before we decide to establish missions in other countries.

So, there is no opposition to it. It is consistent with the PNG Foreign Policy to connect our nation to all parts of the globe but we must realistically manage those aspirations in the context of the overall economic position of our country. That is the reason why we are taking the relevant steps in a different context. For example, in the case of the Republic of Turkey, we have a very energetic Honourary Consul who is doing a fantastic job in that country. In Israel, we have a very committed Honourary Consul, Dr Jacob Weiss which many of you will be familiar with, he is the Honourary Consul of Papua New Guinea in that country. He is also doing a fantastic job.

So, in terms of what more advantage to be gained by taking a physical position of establishing a mission, we have to look at a number of factors and this question is important. If it serves the purpose of all our Christians and population, we will look at it but it's a matter of time.

**AUDITOR-GENERAL OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA – REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-
GENERAL ON THE SERVICE DELIVERY PERFORMANCES IN THE
PROVINCES OF NEW IRELAND AND MILNE BAY,
1 JANUARY 2013 TO 31 DECEMBER 2014 – PAPER –
MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

The following paper was presented pursuant to Statute:

*Auditor-General of Papua New Guinea – Audit Review on Service Delivery
Performances in New Ireland and Milne Bay Provinces.*

Motion (by **Mr Koni Iguan**) agreed to –

That the Parliament take note of the Paper and the Report be referred to the Permanent
Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts.

Report referred.

12/01

**AUDITOR-GENERAL OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA – REPORT OF
THE AUDITOR-GENERAL – PART 1V, 2016 –
MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

The following paper was presented pursuant to Statute:

*Auditor-General of Papua New Guinea – Report Part 1V, 2016 on the Inspection and
Audit of Financial Statements of Public Bodies and its Subsidiaries, Government-owned
companies and National Government shareholdings in other companies.*

Motion (by **Mr Tony Iguan**) agreed to –

That the Parliament take note of the Paper and the Report be referred to the Permanent
Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts.

Report referred.

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.

NATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE COUNCIL – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

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

That in accordance with *Section (8) (1), Subsection B(e) of the National Research Institute Act*, Dr Allan Marat and Mr Sasindran Muthuvel be appointed Members of the National Research Institute Council.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 3.35 p.m..