

FOURTH DAY

Friday 24 November 2017

DRAFT HANSARD

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
CORRECTIONS TO DAILY DRAFT HANSARD

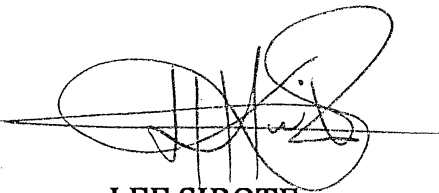
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Corrections should be authorised by signature and contain the name, office and telephone number of the person transmitting/making corrections.

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

LEE SIROTE

Acting Principal Parliamentary Reporter

FOURTH DAY

Friday 24 November 2017

The Speaker (**Mr Job Pomat**) took the Chair at 10.00 a.m..

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

Mr Speaker again took the Chair at 10.30 a.m. and invited the Minister for Community Development, **Mr Soroi Marepo Eoe** to say Prayers:

‘Let us pray: Eternal God we glorify you and worship you because you are the Creator and sustain life. More so O God we thank you for allowing your son Christ Jesus to die for us on the cross of Calvary.

This morning O God we come before you, your throne of grace acknowledging our humanity and we seek your wisdom and knowledge to guide us in our deliberations today.

Dear loving Father we commit the Government this morning, bless the Prime Minister and all the Members of this Parliament and bless the Speaker will be leading in this deliberation. At the end of the day the decision, the policies that we make must have impact and positive impact to our people.

Loving Father this is our prayer we ask in no other name than Christ Jesus our Lord and Saviour. Amen’

QUESTION

Land Grabbing in Central Province

Mr PETER NAMEA ISOAIMO – Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister for Lands and it’s an issue of yet, another land grabbing in my electorate. In fact, I have three questions:

(1) Is the Minister aware that a copy of a petition from 12 clans within Vanapa-Brown River area who are indigenous people of Doura and Koiari have petitioned me on 16 October 2017 which I believe or am led to believe that a copy was brought to his Ministry by his Ministerial staff?

It is a matter in relation to land grabbing by people from other electorates within Central Province and to be more precise, from the Woitape LLG of Goilala District or electorate who managed to grab hold of at least a vast sizeable land of 92 910 hectares from the people of Vanapa-Brown River area who are of Koiari and Doura tribes comprising 12 clans.

An ILG was registered in the name of Miguel Hambabu ILG, numbered 850 on 27 July 2017, legally taking over land belonging to the 12 clans or indigenous people of Koiari and Doura tribes.

02/04

Despite objections being raised by members of the various clans, the Acting Director of the ILG went ahead and issued a certificate of incorporation.

(2) What is the Minister going to do in his powers to cancel that ILG and return the land back to the indigenous inhabitants of the land who have lived here for hundreds of years in such traditional times, or allow a settler to carry a piece of paper and negotiate and solicit deals everywhere as it is happening currently?

Secondly, on the issue of consultation, only last week I learnt that boundaries on the western end of Port Moresby City is now being extended to run all around the Napa Napa and Konebada Petroleum area following the road as far as the Puma Energy installation.

(3) Can the Minister confirm or deny as to whether it's a deliberate attempt over municipal Government Board that he also is a member or the NCD Government because the Central Provincial Government will be losing taxes and levies allowed to it by law of about 40 percent IRC taxes? That includes also the extension of boundaries to the east of Port Moresby which is Dogura has also being moved to Bautama.

I hope the Minister is not intending to shift the Laloki bridge boundary to as far as Brown River because that will never happen, not under my leadership.

(4) Is the Minister aware that there was a compulsory acquisition of land in Papa-Lealea, Portion 281c14c, Mills of Granville and Four Mills Port Moresby, which was taken away from local landowners whom have registered their complaints to my office that they have pending legal matters over the landownership issue of that very portion?

I understand the Government has powers to acquire land where necessary for development purposes and I also welcome development in my electorate but the manner in which the Department behaves secretly acquiring land with certain leaders of the community

is unacceptable. All we need in my district administration and the provincial administration is at least a common courtesy, consultation and dialogue, so when people affected turn up to us for some explanation at least we are aware.

Mr William Duma – Member, ask your question.

Mr PETER ISOAIMO – Shut up and listen! You have all taken away my land. This is my land, I am a landowner.

Mr SPEAKER – Order! Order! Allow the Member to ask his questions. Member, continue to ask your questions.

Mr PETER ISOAIMO – (5) When is the Minister going to delegate powers to our Central Provincial Land Board so that our Provincial Government can exercise that right to deliberate and allocate our own land to our people instead of others coming and keep grabbing our land?

03/04

Mr JUSTIN TKCHENKO – Thank you and I thank the Member for Kairuku-Hiri for his four points that he has asked me to verify.

Firstly, on the acquisition of an ILG registered to settlers from Gailala against 12 clans from Doura and Koiari. Just for your information the acting ILG manager has been removed because of these issues and yours is one of many. He has been removed and the new ILG manager has been put in place about three weeks ago. On that particular issue, I agree that your clans and traditional landowners were not consulted properly and that the ILG title will be cancelled. Re-negotiations with the appropriate landowners of that particular piece of land will be made and they will get what is rightfully theirs.

Mr Speaker, the boundaries of Port Moresby and I really have no idea about that at all and it has never been brought up to me for discussions. I have no power over the boundaries of the capital cities or any of the provinces for that matter, it is with the boundaries commission. There is nothing with me and my Ministry as well. And I have not seen anything regarding the extension of the boundaries of the National Capital into Central Province. That information so far is non-existent and is not happening through my department.

On the issue of Papa-Lealea land grabbing, please provide documents with section and lot numbers, details of everything that you have there. I believe this was done before my time as Minister and I am more than happy to have a look at that documentation and talk to the traditional landowners that have legal matters over that particular piece of land. This is to ensure that things are done correctly.

For the issue on the Central Government Lands Board, I am more than happy to work with your Governor and the members of the provincial government to set up a proper board. This is for your provincial government to provide the necessary funding, space and staff to ensure that that is done. It is just like what we are doing now with the East Sepik provincial Government. Any issues on that, I am more than happy to have your Governor and the Central Provincial Government administration to come to my office and we can work out a process to implement as soon as possible.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DISTINGUISHED GUEST – STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, I have to inform the Parliament that the Right Honourable Sir Anand Satyanand, former Governor General of New Zealand and currently, the Chairman of the Commonwealth Observer group is present in the Speaker's Gallery. I extend to the distinguished visitor, a very warm welcome to Papua New Guinea.

04/04

Rai Coast Roads and Bridges

Mr PETER GEMUNGO SAPIA –Thank you, my question is directed to the Minister for Works and Implementation.

Ramu Nickel is one of the biggest mining project in Papua New Guinea and ever in the Pacific Region. The project refinery is in Rai Coast District, limestone for processing the nickel and the wharf are also at Rai Coast. These major activities are at Rai Coast, but I don't have any impact projects in the district.

Last week, I sat with the President and the executives of the company and asked them to build my road from Erima to Saidor but they said that there was a commitment by the

previous Government to build this road and the bridge there, but there was no action by the previous Government.

As a new Member, I want to ask the Minister and the Mining Minister can take note, if the current Government has any plans to build this road and complete the two bridges in Rai Coast? Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr MICHAEL NALI – Thank you Mr Speaker, and I want to thank the Member for Rai Coast for his question because it is clearly true that the refinery, wharf and facilities of Ramu Nickel are in Rai Coast electorate and he asked for the road.

Road matters comes under my Ministry and we look after the National Highways. In the past, there used to be demarcations between the National Government, provincial government and the districts. But because of the emergency, urgency and deterioration of all the roads and their status, the Department of Works have tried to do its best and we are still picking up a lot of responsibilities over these roads and bridges throughout the country.

Mr Speaker, in the last Parliament, the previous Member decided to build two bridges without the knowledge and the involvement of the Works Department. I understand his district engaged a Korean company to build the two bridges which are still incomplete.

Now, we have a problem where Works Department was not aware of these bridges at the first place, except that we now know that the bridges are incomplete. The Korean company was involved to carry out the actual load to build the concrete bridge over but the bridges are incomplete.

I want to inform all the Members that if you have some money to build projects in your districts or provinces, you must involve the Department of Works because there might be short-falls and we can assist to complete the project.

We have a situation here where the Department of Works is not involved and the project is pending completion. Therefore, I wish to ask the Member for Rai Coast to write to my Department so that my Secretary and I can assess where best we can help to complete your bridge. But I also would like to ask you to allocate some of your DSIP funds and Works can also try to find and allocate some funds so that we can see how best to help. It depends on how long and big the bridge is including the costings because we were not involved at the initial stage to construct this bridge.

Mr Speaker, on the part of Ramu Nickel, they have used quite a big land area in the Rai Coast electorate to build its refinery, wharf and other facilities

05/04

All the major companies in the country including Oil Palm Industry are now involved in helping each province they are operating in by contributing some through the tax credits funds to help these provinces where they are operating in.

So, Mr Speaker, I can guarantee the honourable Member that through the National Planning and Department of Works, we will make it our business to try and see how best we can get Ramu Nickle to try and help you in your electorate with some of the developments using this Tax Credit Funds.

Mr Speaker, I would like to let the public know that these monies have been spent at the will of the companies that have hold this Tax Credit Fund. These funds are at their disposal where they hold on to. The percentage that they receive of 0.75 per cent but at the time the when it is increased to 1.2 or 2 per cent, it is important that we must all know that tax credit money does not belong to that company. This money belongs to the Government and the people of Papua New Guinea so when they are trying to start up a project, they do not have the right to spend this moneys on their own will. They have to zero down on people who are affected in that particular area.

So, Mr Speaker, I hope I answered the honourable Member's question and I would like you to write a letter to my office so at least we can start to put a team together to see how best we can help you and your people.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

P'nyang Gas –Development Arrangements

Mr JAMES DONALD – Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister for Petroleum and Energy and I would like the Deputy Prime Minister since the Prime minister is not here and the Minister for Planning to take note.

Mr Speaker, my question is related to the P'nyang Gas Project and other standard gas fields in North Fly District which I represent. I understand that much has been talked about regarding the development of P'nyang Project, however it is least known as to the position of the State in terms of development arrangements.

Mr Speaker, on behalf of the landowners of P'nyang and Western Province, I want to inform this honourable House that P'nyang projects and other stranded gas fields in Western Province will not be in any way be tied up with the current PNG LNG Project but instead they

will be developed as standalone project to be known as what we preferred to as Western LNG with processing facilities built in Western Province.

Mr Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister, if he can inform this honourable House and the 8 million stakeholders of this country as to whether P'nyang will be a standalone project or be tied up as expansion with the current problematic PNG LNG Project?

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr FABIAN POK – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for North-Fly for his question.

P'nyang is a gas field that is owned by Esso which is a subsidiary of ExxonMobil and its partners. They have –

Mr Garry Juffa – Point of Order! The gas resource is not owned by Esso, it is owned by the people of Papua New Guinea.

Mr FABIAN POK – That is what your law states, it is not my law unless you change the law than it becomes a different entity all together.

Yes, the gas is owned by the people of Papua New Guinea but the way it is arranged, the license is owned by Esso which is a subsidiary of ExxonMobil, so what we are trying to do is because they have not complied with the requirement.

06/04

Before my time, they were given an extension of 18 months to complete all the requirements in order to do all this, and I believe they have another six months to complete before we do P'nyang. But I still looking at how they have complied with the requirements set by Petroleum Department. The question about P'nyang is that, P'nyang will not be extended but because the license is owned by the same company, we have asked that it becomes its own financial terms so that it will not be part of the financial terms of the Papua PNG LNG. So this is the current status at the moment but because they have six more months to complete the 18 months extension that was given and so we are still waiting for that. But I can assure the people that P'nyang will not be considered as an extension but it will be considered under its own fiscal terms.

Supplementary Questions

P'nyang Licence Status

Mr BRYAN KRAMMER – Thankyou Speaker, my supplementary question is in relation to P'nyang.

I understand that under the *Act* the license can only be renewed once and I believe that the license has expired. So by law, that license should be forfeited back to the State. And I understand that there was a negotiation between the developer and the O'Neill Government to legally or enter into some MOU to maintain the life span of that license.

In response to your comment suggesting that they might extend it.

Mr SPEAKER – Member what's your question?

Mr BRYAN KRAMMER – The law states that the license can't be renewed what is the status of the license?

Mr Steven Davies – Point of Order! That supplementary question cannot be allowed under the *Standing Orders*. The rules governing the questions that are allowed don't permit questions for legal opinion to be asked to the Ministers. That point of order is out of order.

Mr SPEAKER – Your Point of Order is out of order, honourable Member.

Clan Vetting in PNG LNG Project Areas

Mr MANASSEH MAKIBA –Thankyou Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General.

My question is in relation to the Court Order preventing the clan vetting in PNG LNG project areas. We know that PNG LNG project one single revenue source for the country and we an interesting 2018 National Budget that is coming up where most of who's funding sources depending on the proceeds of PNG LNG Project.

Now, I have received as the Member for the electorate who host most of the project areas. I am in recipient of a petition from the project areas landowners of PDL1, PDL 7 and PDL 8. The petition has given an ultimatum that project would be shut down if Government does not address the ongoing issue of the delayed clan vetting as well as the none-payment of

the K35 million agreed to be paid under a MOU signed in August 2006, of which K15 million for PDL7 and K20 million for PDL1.

Now NEC in its decision No.2010 of 2016 has approved that particular MOU and has approved for the release of the payment of K35 million as well as for the clan vetting to proceed within 30 days.

07/04

In that decision, NEC has also directed the Attorney General to file applications in Court to set aside the restraining orders that were put in place. To date, the restraining orders are still on put. The landowners have been frustrated for quite a while and in a recent NEC decision, a special committee was appointed for clan vetting to proceed with the task.

The Minister for Petroleum and Energy, Dr Fabian Pok has been leading and putting together a team. A program has been released to the media for the public benefit showing that clan vetting for the pipeline segments one to seven begin last week and for PDLs 1, 7 and 8 should begin in December. However, that is not possible to proceed because we have been advised by the Office of the Solicitor General that the restraining orders on put is still effective and the officers involved in proceeding with the clan vetting could be cited for contempt. We have been advised that an application for variation has been put, however if we are going to wait for the application for variation, it is definitely going to affect the program that is in place for the clan vetting. My questions are;

(1) Do we have to wait for the application for the variation or does the Department have any plans to address this issue?

Perhaps by way of a legislative amendment to limit the powers and functions of the National Court by way of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and not to interfere with the clan vetting process because we believe that the clan vetting process is more of an administrative process than a legal dispute.

The other question is on a conflicting opinion from the Supreme Court. We have a recent decision in Gobe PDL 3 and 4 that the ADR, which is only an extent of function of the National Court, has no powers or jurisdiction to determine issues of landownership in project areas.

(2) Can the Attorney General file a Supreme Court reference seeking the opinion of the Supreme Court in identifying what is the extent of the powers of the ADR?

Thankyou Mr Speaker.

Mr DAVIS STEVEN – Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I thank the honourable Member for Komo-Magarima for this very important question. The question is of national interest and it raises a matter of significance and it affects the position of our laws and our Court's position in respect to an important undertaking that the current-

Mr Bryan Krammer – Point of Order! Mr Speaker, the response to the question raises legal opinion and it is a matter currently before the Court

Mr SPEAKER – Point of Order is in Order because *Section 141* of the *Standing Order* states you cannot question the Minister for an expression of opinion or for a legal opinion.

Mr DAVIES STEVEN – Mr Speaker, the question related to an action on administrative decision that needs to be made by my Office. My Office is responsible for this. This is a matter of national interest.

Mr SPEAKER – Mr Minister, the question was also asking for a legal opinion. If you were going to seek legal opinion.

Mr DAVIES STEVEN – Thank you, Mr Speaker, I was going to say that the matter is sub-judice. Therefore, I was not going to comment. The issue is before the court but action has been taken to deal with the restraints that is hindering administrative action undertaken by the responsible department. Our people must know that government is taking action to deal with issues that affects the interest of the nation. It's not a question for me to seek legal opinion on.

08/04

Mr Bryan Krammer – Point of Order! The Speaker has ruled on the question, thank you.

Mr Fabian Pok – Point of Order! It is right that the Attorney-General answers this question.

Mr SPEAKER – Mr Minister, can you sit down, the Chair didn't recognise you to raise your point of order.

Issue of Police Brutality in PNG

Mr RAINBO PAITA – I direct my question to the Minister for Police. Mr Speaker in the last sitting during grievance debate I brought about the issue of breakdown in law enforcements in the country, mostly on the issue of police brutality.

Mr Speaker, as parliamentarians we have tried our best to address this issue but for quite a while. If you look at the situation in the country now our people are living with certain insecurity in their own country.

There is a general sense of feeling that it's more safer outside the country than living within PNG. Most time I personally witness the issue of police brutality in the country. The police force are supposed to discharge their responsibilities with some restraints but in most situations it goes beyond the level of their designated duties and responsibilities.

At most time these issues are published on daily newspapers and ongoing court cases dealing with police brutality and at most instances they use their force to calm them down. But discharging beyond their limit has caused headlines throughout the country as well as overseas and that creates bad image for our country.

It's good that the Minister has done changes in terms of restructure and reform within the department, and I thank him for his energy and enthusiasm on this.

My question is:

Do you have any plan in place to address the ongoing issue of police brutality in this country?

I think we have gone too far on this issue therefore it has to be a very ambitious attempt made to address this issue because as you see the Police Force is supposed to be a shield but it has turned into a sword against its own people. Our people need and deserve better.

In this life span of this Parliament at least we try to curb down on the issue of police brutality so that our citizens can have a better feeling that we are save in our own country.

Mr JELTA WONG – Mr Speaker, I thank the Member for Finchhafen for his question. In my term as Minister for Police we will have zero tolerance on police brutality. Therefore, the Police Commissioner and I are working on disciplinary action by allocating

more funds into internal affairs of the Police Force so that we curb this type of crime. Yes, it does affect us every day.

09/04

I have seen lot of reports coming in on police brutality and in the same token we have policemen that are being pushed to the limit by the public at times. We are sorting our guidelines so that the disciplinary forces and the courts will help us out by ensuring that it does not go too much. We are working on that.

Thank you for your question. Once we get that in writing we will bring it back to the Floor.

Release of DSG

Mr CHRIS NANGOI – Thank you Mr Speaker. On behalf of my people in Sumkar, I thank you for recognising me to speak.

I direct my question to the Minister for Finance and Leader of the Government Business.

We are now approaching the end of 2017 and I am not sure whether some members have received their funding under the DSG. I have not received mine yet.

Can the Minister of Finance clarify on this matter?

Mr JAMES MARAPE – Thank you Mr Speaker. I thank the Member for Sumkar for his question. We have not released the 2017 DSG. I will talk with the Minister for Treasury on this issue. DSG is a concessional grant and every district is entitled to it but we require acquittals from all districts.

I have issued an instruction to waive the acquittal requirements for Members of Parliament especially for those who entered Parliament as a result of the 2017 elections. They will have to work backwards as they receive and acquit their funds for this year.

For the continuing members of Parliament, we absolutely require your acquittals of 2016 use of funds then you can go to 2017 funds.

Supplementary Question

Abolish Non-discretionary Grants

Mr KONI IGUAN - My supplementary question is in relation to the DSG. I am aware that there are two components within the DSG. Non-discretionary and discretionary funds.

Can the Minister do away with non-discretionary so that the members can have enough discretionary funds in order to attend to other issues of the electorate?

Mr JAMES MARAPE – Thank you Mr Speaker. Let me also thank the Member for Markham. I will place on record to check this consideration and get the Department concerned to look into this matter.

I will then report to Parliament and Cabinet in due course.

Goroka Town Water and Sanitation

Mr PETER NUMU – Thank you Mr Speaker. My question is directed the Minister for National Planning & Monitoring, he is also responsible for water and sanitation.

Mr Speaker, the Minister made a visit to Eastern Highlands Province and made a commitment to look into the water problem in Goroka Town.

The Government of China has signed an agreement with Eastern Highlands Provincial Government to fix the water problem and to undertake the feasibility studies which will eventually lead to setting up the project.

10/04

Before I ask you these questions, I wish to take this time to thank the Chinese Government. We have a long history. The Chinese President was once the Governor of Fujian Province and we had a good ties with the Eastern Highland Provincial Government. So, I'd like to thank the President of the Chinese Government.

NEC Allocation for EHP Roadblocks

My first question are:

(1) While the financial arrangement is going to take place and we have the APEC Meeting coming next year, do you have any plans to cater for this?

In the Barola crisis recently, the NEC allocated K6 million to remove many road blocks imposed there. In many instances, road blocks affect the economy of the country.

I, as the Governor received majority of the votes from the youths living along the road corridor and I feel responsible for their well-being in terms of projects.

The money NEC allocated in its wisdom last year is to cater for these people and as a responsible Governor, I want to look after their welfare thus ensure that there is a smooth flow of traffic so that it doesn't affect our economy.

If you can give me an answer. I want that money so that I can go back and take care of the youths along the road corridor to ensure there is no blockages of the road and minimise law and order problems.

Mr RICHARD MARU – Thank you, Mr Speaker and I thank the Governor for the two questions.

I will start with the water issue in Goroka.

Mr Speaker, I wish to say that Goroka Town is the only town in the country where the water supply is owned and managed by the town council. Is that town the government has a grave concern as to whether the water is safe or not? That's the only town we have issues over because Water PNG is not running it.

With a series of planned APEC meetings in Goroka, the Government is concerned to assure that the quality of water in Goroka is to the required standards.

Mr Speaker, I have written to the Governor and ask that we look at offloading the management of Goroka Town water supply to Water PNG so that the Government can have confidence in the fact that there are systems and processes in place to ensure that the water is produced under WHO standards and that it is safe for the residents of Goroka.

I am aware of a number of people, who are friends of mine who have contracted waterborne diseases in Goroka which have been attributed to the quality of water in the town. So, the government is concerned about this and I have written to the Governor to ask him to deliberate with the town council and consider transferring the management of the water infrastructure to Water PNG.

Mr Speaker, we cannot allow one town to continue to run its water supply on its own for two basic reasons.

(1) Safety reasons. We must guarantee that all towns and districts which enjoy district or town water supplies must be safe.

(2) The second is the ongoing issue of how to fund the water supply and sewerage systems?

At the moment, the only two place where the water supply system is able to generate and sustain the water supply system are Port Moresby and Lae. Most water supply systems cannot do so.

We would like to see the big provincial towns which are able to generate some profits or surplus to come in and take ownership and control of major utilities so we can use the resources of major utilities to fund new district, town or village water supplies.

So in terms of Goroka, yes, the Government will put money in the Budget next week to do a major overhaul of the Goroka Town water supply but that will only happen if the Governor and the people of Eastern Highlands can convince the Goroka Town Council to transfer the management of the water supply to Water PNG.

11/04

If you want to continue to use it as your own private business making entity you cannot expect the National Government to come and fund it. You will have to fund it yourselves.

Mr Speaker, I am happy to inform the Governor that I have provided money in the Budget to fund the major rehabilitation of the Goroka Town water supply and I am expecting the Governor to provide the leadership to convince the Goroka Town Council to move ownership if not just management of the water supply to PNG Water so we can guarantee citizens and visitors to Goroka that the water is safe like we do in all other major cities.

Mr Speaker, in regards to the Barola issue, I am not aware of some funding that is available in this year's Budget for this particular commitment that the Government has made but let me sit with the Governor so we can meet that commitment next year.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Question proposed –

That the Grievances be noted.

Sir PETER IPATAS (Enga) – Mr Speaker, I thank you for this time and I just want to express a few disappointments of late.

Mr Speaker, the Porgera Mine since 1989 has been a major contributor to the economy of this country and next year 2019 is the year that the Mining Sector will be conducting a review.

The National Government through the Department of Mining for some reason is not giving any prominence to the Porgera Mine.

You must not think that Engans will just stand and be spectators all the time. There has never been any major issue in Porgera since it started and that doesn't mean that we are all happy. So the Department of Mining must take ownership and start preparing my province for the upcoming review taking into account the sentiments of the people of this country who want to take major shareholding on all the resource projects in this country. This review would have started a long time ago. For some reason this is not the case.

Mr Speaker, I am bringing this matter to the attention of the National Government to state the process. My province and the people of Enga have been silently generating revenue to the country and by 2019 landowners and provincial government all have issues. These issues need to be sorted out before 2019.

Whilst this has been going on I hear that the Department of Environment has been going around giving 50 year permits for water usage without consulting the provincial government or the people of the province.

We are no longer 'bush Kanakas' in Enga. We have more educated elites in Enga now. We must follow process; the simple gesture of courtesy and consultation and dialogue.

This mine is important to my province and to this country. But at the same time when those important licences or permits are granted to the developers they must have due consideration and approach the provincial government and its people.

Mr Speaker, I am expressing my disappointment in all of these, and the Minister is also from Enga but I am not sure why this is happening. He must wake up.

12/04

When the review comes next year, we are aware because the precedence has been set by Bougainville. The Government has to take some responsibilities in starting the process that we do not come to a stage where we reach a dead end and bypass the review. I am also told that PJV has lodged an application for renewal. The Government and the department concerned, please do not entertain this as yet. We must look at the agreement. In 1989, when I was the Council President and Mr Ned Laina was the Premier for Enga, clauses that he

wanted included in the agreement were not included. The Government headed by Sir Rabbie Namaliu at that time, forced the premier to sign it and I witnessed that.

Mr Speaker, we want to take an opportunity to review, this is not to stop work but to have an opportunity so that our people can get some good returns. These are my serious points I want to put to the Prime Minister and his Deputy. The people of Enga have been quiet and this mine has been looking after the people of this country, please mobilise the government so that we can participate properly in this mine.

Secondly, it has been 20 years for me as a Governor and it is about time I said something. It would be remiss of me not to say what I am going to say. In 1995, I was with the review commission under the former Member for Kavieng, Mr Ben Micah. The intention of this review under the provincial and local level government was to improve delivery services to the province. Sad to say in the last 20 years, I have not seen the National Government giving importance to that particular legislation.

Mr Speaker, there have been a lot of other laws created, when are we ever going to strengthen the systems we have. The new reform has never been funded, the national agencies have never taken ownership of the new law and the implementation. And now, we are here, with the ignorance of some of the new Members, after 20 years with 22 provinces allow those provincial governments to function. Allow them to exercise their mandate to function. The National Government cannot go knocking on house doors to do small things, you have a country to run. You have a lot of issues at the national level to address, let the provinces do what they are mandated to do. All of a sudden, we now have Ministers becoming chairman of this and that when we should let the provincial governments take control. We now want to run the districts, where is the functions of the provincial government?

If you want to run the provinces, become Governors but you have to look at the national agenda. Who will lead the country if you at the national level are moving to the district? Spending more time in the district and I say this again, in my 20 years as Governor, no Prime Minister or the National Government has come to assist me to build Enga. I have been mandated to govern Enga by the people of Enga.

13/04

It's about time the National Government went through the Provincial Government System. Every province is different. For example, where will Enga Province be today if Enga

Provincial Government did not have a policy on education? We have to find a way for our people and that is why we are a successful today.

Every province has its own agenda; East New Britain has its own, Manus and Madang have their own agendas. Empower them so that there are about 5-10 healthy provinces competing among each other and making this country look good than having one National Government which is sick and we are all sitting and looking up at it. Allow us to run the provinces.

Thanks to the Prime Minister who intervened and allocated us some funds which I can see some work taking place in my province. But it's the system, processes, public servants that must work through the Provincial Government to make it happen. Not serving six different public servants in my province, that's going to be over my dead body because I've worked so hard to unite my province and have an agenda for my province.

I will not have six different districts running their own agendas everywhere. Enga has its own population, to plan its own destiny within this country. Every province has the opportunity to caring and leading their people to go into the future for a better Papua New Guinea.

So I want to tell you the Ministers, Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, don't think you alone know the answer. You now have educated Governors here, not like me, I'm just a councillor here. There are 22 Provincial Government that are functioning efficiently so utilise the Governors and make them productive where you as the National Government have less to do, less to worry about. After 20 years, I've been holding Enga province together but when I exist, the new Governor will find difficulty to run the province. Therefore, the National Government must now empower the Provincial Governments and the leadership in the provinces so that they can do whatever they are mandated to do in the provinces. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr SOROI EOE – (Kikori) - First of all let me thank the O'Neill-Abel Government for giving me the Ministry for a first-timer. Kikori district is a very important electorate which I represent today,

In the past, large part of my forest has been exploited, at the same time fisheries has been exploited and also it is the pipeline carrier for the first LNG and yet, we are considering the second LNG to be developed in the Kikori District of Gulf Province.

I am somewhat very concern because the district is very under-developed. Large sums of funds were given in the last fifteen years in hundreds of millions and nothing has taken any effect on the ground.

14/04

My infrastructure is non-existent, airports are closed down, jetties are closed down, and waterways have been clogged because of sanitation. And then we have hospitals and schools being shut because of lack of funds.

My people have been lost at sea. To date there are about 2000 lost souls in their plight to access government services in Kerema and Port Moresby by the sea via outboard motors. I myself have had two near-death experiences.

So, here we are talking about two very important projects that are going to come through Gulf Province, or Gulf Province is going to host these two projects or well heads. I ask that the government particularly key ministries of Treasury, Finance, Petroleum, Works and others that can make a difference take note of concerns.

You cannot have any multi-billion kina projects without having to cater for infrastructure. I need infrastructure. Having said that, I noticed that there is already mention about connecting Southern Highlands to Kikori.

Thank you, that's a very important initiative but it should also extend from Kikori to Kerema and then on to Port Moresby. The landmass between Kerema and Kikori has no road infrastructure on the ground and yet this is the place that has been exploited.

At the same time it is one of the resource areas with high elevation that can produce agriculture produces and yet my people are forced to look at betel nut selling as a commodity to make a living simply because betel nut can be managed in the bags and you can access the sea to Kerema and hence to Port Moresby.

And yet we want to be participants, a part of the agricultural projects that we are talking about but we cannot even think about it if there is no road system or bridge system.

So my appeal to the government is to help me to get this important district into shape so that any other projects that come in can come in at a time when we have all those infrastructure in place.

Mr GARRY JUFFA (Northern) Thank you, Mr Speaker. My grievance debate would be very short, basically just supporting what the Governor of Enga said a little earlier

and how I feel that they have been neglected by national agencies not all but many, especially in the area of licencing and the granting of permits.

In many instances, provinces are not being consulted when departments or authorities are granting licences and permits for the development of resources in those provinces. For instance, off the coast of the Oro Province is a large area, a recent gas find of an estimated eight TCF. License was granted by a Minister in the last government to a company in Australia named Rossen Limited without the knowledge of the Oro Provincial Government, the Open Member, landowners, LLGs and others.

15/04

When I enquired with the Department, they said they had not known about it saying it was done purely by the Minister himself and that's an example.

And Forestry is another area where this happens regularly. The provinces are hardly consulted but permits and licenses are granted here, liaising with the so-called landowners who operate mainly from the back of Boroko Post Office and other places, who have never been home and are not genuine landowners and even cannot speak the language back home. But somehow they organise to procure licenses or permits, grab some investor and they turn up in the province. When this happens it causes a lot of problems on the ground between the genuine landowners and those who are not genuine, between the local-level government, provincial government and the Open member and so forth. And there are a lot of conflicts caused around the country by this situation where provinces are simple not being consulted when the issue of licensing and permitting arises.

I totally agree with the Governor of Enga in what he is saying in that; increasingly, we are seeing marginalisation of provincial governments And this only occurred in my opinion after the so-called provincial government reforms, which was a situation where I would like to describe as being undertaken to fix something that was working very well and was not broken. If you go back to that time before the provincial government reforms in 1995, you will find that stations and districts were functioning very well, station managers and district managers were in their offices. The internal revenue was collected by the provinces themselves and distributed equitably and provinces were basically competing with one another in development. And in every district or station you will find that more or less they were functioning. Public servants were not being just paid but they actually had funds to carry out their extension activities and services such as agriculture, health and so forth.

And police stations were opened but today you visit many of these stations and districts, they are nothing like they used to be before after the reforms. We have to re-visit this reforms and find out why this reforms took place. Was it to accommodate the Look North Policy, which happened to be around the same time? Provinces were guarding their resources and the interest of the people quite effectively until this reform took place. And under the pretext of decentralisation they were actually centralising the permitting and licensing here in Waigani. Now we have all types of people who are turning up whether they are genuine investors or not. We have no idea but licenses and permits are granted here in Waigani. Land is being sold here in Waigani. ILG's are registered here in Waigani.

When talking about clans and tribes, I was caught in a situation where an area known as Ioma Block 5, when the ILGs were created here and taken back home, we were surprised to find almost three clans that have never existed in the history of the Hunjara people from where I come from. They were created here in Port Moresby, and that land was almost granted to a logging company but we put a stop to it.

I think it's important that we re-visit the 1995 Provincial Government reforms and I am glad to see that the O'Neill Government has made an undertaking to shift a lot of the functions such as revenue collections and responsibilities back to the provinces. This is happening to see and let us expedite this and let us move and not just talk only but put in place means and ways by which we can bring this about as quickly as possible. Districts and stations are deteriorating, you don't need to go far with due respect to my Governor of Central. Just take a drive from here and you will agree. Look at Kwikila for instances, this used to be thriving economics town functioning very well. The point is, before the reforms the provincial government public servants were very active. They felt that they had purpose and drive because the provinces were collecting their own revenues and channelling it back into them through the various divisions and departments. And provinces had they own ministers and their own assembly and the premier ran the show and they collected their own revenue and they functioning.

16/04

After the reforms, we centralised all of these activities here in Waigani, open the door to the *Look North Policy* where we let in all manner of investors, genuine, non-genuine and criminal cartels involved, who are now here raping and plundering our resource at will while we are struggling to look for money in a very rich country. It doesn't make sense.

Let us go back and review this. I propose that we decentralise these revenue functions back to the provinces. When you do that, you will invigorate the public servants on the ground. They will feel useful and they will feel that they have things to do and they will have the means to do it because the provinces can collect their own revenues.

Now the revenues are primarily collected in Port Moresby and Lae, the gate way ports. Port Moresby for instance gets K250 million a year in internal revenue alone. What do you Members get in your provinces? Many of the businesses are not being attended to by IRC. We have one of the weakest tax regimes in the entire Southern Hemisphere. This is a tax regime that begs businesses to pay their taxes. This doesn't happen in many other parts of the world. The tax offices are the most assertive and aggressive department in any economy. I will give you an example, in Australia, the Defence Force of Australia has 30 000 soldiers, and 36 000 tax officers, yes that is right. These officers are interconnected in every government system and anywhere where there is movement of funds. Funnily enough, so does Fiji, what about us? We are over taxing the people who are already paying tax and penalising them meanwhile those who are not paying tax we let them get away with it. Just look in the forestry and fisheries sector and you will see companies that are becoming billionaire companies with their individuals building their empires offshore mainly in Australia at our expense while we are struggling to look for money.

Let us review this system. I commend the O'Neill Government for their effort but I would like to see some urgency in what is happening so that we may transfer some of these revenues back to the provinces and the licencing and permitting goes back to the provinces. We know our clans and our people, we know the liars and the thieves who are using fraudulent means in the city to obtain licences and permits which they bring and disrupt the peace and normalcy in the villages. We can do the clan vetting ourselves. Look at what is happening up at Southern Highlands and Hela, they could have identified their own land owner, and we wouldn't be having these problems.

I want to support what the O'Neill Government is doing, and I want to support what the Enga Governor has said. I want us to revisit the evil and sinister effort - the provincial government reforms, which I would say were not undertaken with the genuine interest of this country at heart. They were merely an effort to accommodate the *Look North Policy* and it has been to our detriment and while we walk around calling ourselves leaders, our nation is crumbling. And we have become the poorest people in the richest country in the world. Thankyou.

Mr WERA MORI (Chuave – Minister for Commerce & Industry) – Thank you, Mr Speaker, I would like to make my contributions short. Before I do, I would like to state here that early this week it was reported in the paper that a six-year-old little girl was tortured because of sorcery allegations.

17/04

Mr Speaker, there is a law in place for those who are involved in so called sorcery to be punished by law and I am making this statement on this Floor of Parliament that every effort must be made by all our law enforcing agencies to get such culprits to be severely dealt by the laws of this land because that little girl did not deserve to go and receive the sort of treatment that she received in Enga Province.

Mr Speaker, my other grievance is about real estates in this country and more so in Port Moresby. It is so expensive and it's beyond affordability of many public servants, many citizens including Members of Parliament like myself. This morning I had discussions with my department and we will be writing to ICCC so that we must be able to bring an authority of some sort to regulate the real estate industry in this country. We must not allow them to dictate like in any other industry. They must be regulated so that at least it must be fair to all Papua New Guineans who want to have affordable homes. It is not only in Port Moresby that you see happening but it also applies to places like Lae, Goroka, Mount Hagen, Madang, Rabaul, Kokopo and other major urban centres of this country.

And therefore, I would like to inform the people of PNG and also honourable Members of this Parliament that my department will be supporting and working closely together with ICCC to see how we could regulate the real estate industry.

Mr Speaker, the other issue that I would want to raise is that yesterday, during Question Time, the Member for Ambunti-Drekikir questioned the Minister for Police in regard to the conduct of some loggers in his district. It is frightening because if we are not careful and allow those who are involved in logging, they may harvest some red timbers in areas under conservation. I will make a specific reference to April Salome Conservation area which is in the Ambunti-Drekikir District. Not only that you can find any other tropical range of timber in that part of the country but there is also occurrence of rare culverin fine trees. There are only two places in PNG where you find the Kauri pine; along the central line of New Ireland and in the April Salomei area of the Sepik river basin. These are rare trees because you will only find Kauri pines in places like New Zealand, where they do have a lot of those trees but

in PNG they are rare and are under conservation. We must not allow those loggers to have access to this sort of areas because if they do we will have problems with new species.

Mr Speaker, I am thankful that the Minister for Forest is trying to bring reforms to the Forestry Industry which is good because if we can go back to 1996, the Barnett Inquiry, revealed three major issues; under-pricing, loggers were not reporting correctly the volume of logs that have been exported and of course also reforestation.

18/04

Mr Speaker, these sort of things must not be overlooked because they concern the resources of this country and we are not able to police this.

We will continue to lose revenue and industries to the hands of those foreigners whose basic interest are to generate profit and declare losses by providing false reports to the State.

Mr Speaker, it is important that we do this so that we must assure our people. I know that National Forest Authority was established shortly after the Barnett Inquiry. Prior to that, we had forestry officers in all the districts of Papua New Guinea including Chuave where we do not have much of forestry resources.

But it was good because they were encouraging Papua New Guineans to plant trees. Now many of our logging companies that are logging are not carrying the reforestation programs. This must be polished seriously because otherwise we will lose all our forests.

Mr Speaker, it is only fair that we place our nation's interest before our own. I do know the comments made by the Governor of Enga. It is true that Porgera actually rescued this country. Panguna was closed and the mining of Ok Tedi's tailing dam collapsed at that time. Thankfully under the Prime Ministership of Paias Wingti it was decided that Porgera should go ahead.

So those are the reasons and they must be addressed so that we do not tangle ourselves with all sorts of problems. Thank you.

Mr TOMAIT KAPILI – November meeting is about budget so I want to talk about budget.

There are three arms of government. The legislature, Executive and the Judiciary. The Judiciary have their own budget. We are the legislatures headed by the Speaker but it seems Parliament has no budget. I believe that under the *Constitution*, Parliament must have its own budget like the Judiciary.

We will be approving the Executive budget next week. Within the Executive budget we have the development and the recurrent budget which will cater for individual departments and statutory bodies. Same will apply to the Judiciary too. Is there a budget for Parliament?

I am sure Mr Speaker is part of the grievance debate and he is listening. He can task his employees to look into this area.

19/04

Some of us, Members of Parliament, are still waiting for our pays. We don't have vehicles, nor do we have staff. What is this?

They are claiming that we are earning huge salaries, the allowances for vehicles and housing distorted our real salaries. Last fortnight my payslip showed a net pay of K4000 after tax and superannuation. After we have obtained our houses and vehicles we may be the lowest paid people around the place.

It seems that some of you come here the easy way by applying to your people, they accepted you and said he is intelligent and have good leadership so it was easy for you to come here.

For some of us, it costs us pigs, dogs, cows and even human lives to come here, we had to pay a very high price to come here.

So when people say that we are highly paid, I take offence, I don't know if you agree with my statement or not but the Parliament must have its own Budget. The Staff of the Parliamentary Service, including the legal counsel must advise the Speaker if it is proper to have a separate budget for the Parliament.

I have heard that the judiciary has its own Budget and the executive government also has its own with the departments and statutory bodies. We must all have separate budgets. We must all have our own budgets to come before us during this meeting.

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Member, *Section 210* of the *Constitution* states that the Parliament has its own Budget. The *Constitution* stipulates that before September 30 every year the Speaker must give the Parliament's proposed budget to the Prime Minister to give to the executive government to cater for it in the National Budget.

That is why you as a Member of Parliament get your pay from the Parliament because the Parliament has its own Budget.

You may continue with your Grievance Debate.

Mr TOMAIT KAPILI – Thank you, Mr Speaker, for that statement in support of my debate that the Parliament should have its own Budget just like the judiciary. If such things as this are place then I will have my own clerks in the electorate and in Port Moresby. I am a leader of my people.

Mr Thomas Pelika – Point of Order! I am here and I heard, you have no money, and you have no control over the funds. It seems that Finance gives you money in dribs and drabs because in here you don't control money properly.

Mr TOMAIT KAPILI – That is a comment adding on to what I am saying so it is not a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER – That is correct so, honourable Member, continue your debate.

Mr TOMAIT KAPILI – So, what I am trying to say is that this Parliament should have a separate budget. If we do, I haven't seen one because I am interested in my pay, my allowances and I am interested in my staff, attached to my office.

As ordinary Members of Parliament, we are not entitled to any staff. How do we expect the Members of Parliament to perform their mandated duties without the assistance of our staff? I am pretty sure the Parliament should cater for those types of arrangements.

20/04

The National Parliament must have a separate Budget not Supplementary or not complementing the Executive Budget.

Mr Speaker, another issue is this Parliament elects the Prime Minister, the Governor General, and the Speaker of Parliament. The Chief Justice is appointed by NEC.

Mr Speaker, after the Prime Minister is ousted he enjoys his perks and privileges. The Governor General also does that too. The Chief Justice also does that too.

But the Speaker of the National Parliament, once he is ousted, he just gets his retirement benefit just like any other ordinary Member.

Mr Speaker, I don't see why the Speaker is not given that same prominence in all these?

Mr Speaker, Parliament elects these leaders on the Floor of Parliament, yet the Prime Minister enjoys their perks and privileges while the Speaker is just an ordinary Member. Why?

Mr Speaker, I think the staff and the management of Parliament should capture this and bring it forward to relevant authorities to make amendments to give prominence to the Speaker of the Parliament.

Mr JOHN SIMON (Nuku) – Mr Speaker, I rise to raise my grievance in regards to our citizens going into fast money schemes that we are aware of. The latest now is called the Bitcoin or Crypto currency and I just recently had this experience in my district where my people have no idea of this ludicrous ideas. But somehow some people brought this scheme into the district and they are luring citizens into this madness.

Some of this schemes like Aim Global and before that the Papa Line scheme and so on are now found everywhere in major cities of Papua New Guinea and it is spreading like wildfire.

Right now it is really destroying families and our own public servants are really into it now.

Mr Speaker, all the Members of this Parliament are aware of this schemes because at one point in time they have walked up to you and asked you for money and stating that by tomorrow the promised million will be in their account.

You give K10 or K100 and just next month it will be approved by the Queen and a windfall of billions will be available. My goodness!

Mr Speaker, even they tell the Members of Parliament that we are wasting our time because soon we will take over this country with the Queen.

Mr Speaker, this is not a laughing matter. This reality, its's really is happening to our poor citizens.

Mr Speaker, do we have a law in place where our police and relevant authorities can start arresting and imprisoning leaders and people who are at the forefront of these schemes.

21/04

Lock them up and send them to prison, this is no joke. I think what we need to do as responsible Members of Parliament is to represent our people. We must now come up with some actions to help our people and give them the alternatives. What are the alternatives; we

look at our banks, so many micro and macro banks in the country today. Which are official and authorised by the Central Bank?

I am happy that the Deputy Prime Minister and the Treasurer are sitting here and listening to what we are debating on now. Our people are now investing in schemes because there is no other way for them. If they want to go and make loans from the banks, they will have so many process to abide by before they have an approval. Too many requirements, and now it includes NID card and the process to have an NID card is endless.

This is what is being faced by our people and what are we doing about it? It is time we take responsibility and do something about it. These banks are looking for opportunities to make quick money and in the end, our people are suffering. Going back to the issue of Bitcoin and other such schemes, I can't believe my people in the village are ignorant of the idea. You have to understand this before you get into it. They say that they will become instant millionaires and the people are looking for a fast way to get rich so they follow and as responsible people, we have to help and educate our people to refrain from such schemes or provide alternatives for them.

We need to put some laws in place and start arresting the ring-leaders. And these schemes are also coming from overseas. Foreigners collecting money from our people and public servants are busy with these; attending meetings to get as many members as they can. This is a big issue we must discuss and make laws to control or stop what is already taking place. The Central Bank has to come up with policies to stop these schemes that are destroying our people.

Mr Renbo Paita – Point of Order! I think the Member is generalising the issue of some of the technologies that we are using in the country. He has mentioned that things such as the Bitcoin and digital currency are some of the things that we have to understand. There are good people trying to run the concepts. It is a global currency that is attracting investments outside of the country. We have our own people trying to engage in it. There are both honest and people with different ideas doing these things so we only need to be careful. So we should not generalise and create a legislation. We need to see what is good and not to generalise and say Bitcoin and digital currency are bad. We need to be careful and look at how people are trying to do these things, instead of generalising it to be a bad concept in the country.

22/04

Mr JOHN SIMON – The issue is about our small people, who have no knowledge of computers and internet therefore others are fooling them, even obtaining money from them as they don't know what the end product will be. So this is the issue I'm debating.

The biggest issue is the global and various scheme who are getting money from people every day. The point is that our people are doing it because the easy way through is not available to them to obtain money or put money to start small businesses for themselves.

Our banks are changing names regularly from Agriculture Bank in the past, then to Rural Development Bank, now to National Development Bank and the next will be another name change when a new Government comes into office.

Mr Speaker, in the districts, it is not easy for us to put our funds at the right place where our people can go and get the loan easily and go back to repay quickly.

Because this is not in place, our people are coming up with the easier ways of entering into these schemes in the hope of getting millions but it's not coming. Thank you Mr Speaker for allowing me to speak during today's Grievance Debate.

Mr SOLAN MIRISIM- Thank you Mr Speaker, I wish to talk about the missing links which are our roads into the districts and the provinces in the country.

Many places in PNG are linked with roads and are sealed. Many remote districts still don't have roads and people are yet to see a vehicle going nor services. Yet the Government continues to get funding from abroad such as the K14 billion we saw this week coming from China.

This funding will go to service the existing roads and not linking up the missing links where there are still no roads to open the door to those people who are still in the jungles and remote places. We are still funding roads that are in operation and are already sealed.

Where I come from in Telefomin, it is very remote and hard to build road. We are also linked with the Highlands provinces and we can still contribute towards the SME, we can contribute to the commodities of this country such as coffee and vanilla but no accessibility.

If the Government continues to talk about SME, it's only for certain areas. Put more money into agriculture to collect revenue for the country.

23/04

But some of us who can contribute to the country have no road. So, if the Government can take stock of which districts and provinces need better roads or have no roads at all and build roads and connect electricity, I think these will help this country to grow and the much talked about SME will not be in vain. It will bear results and this country will not run short of funds.

When the prices of Gold and Copper go down, the agriculture sector will still maintain the economy but if we do not connect road links and electricity in the entire country, than we will still talk about the SME's and not get anywhere.

We need to take stock of the road linkages. I come from are really rugged and remote area and there are similar areas districts like Karamui and Chuave, in the Highlands with similar issues. We, Telefomin have become the subject of discussion when it comes to development agendas. But we are part of Papua New Guinea and we want the roads to connect through our district. We have educated people from our area who are contributing to this country by paying their taxes but we lack accessibility.

If you go to Teleformin, I can say, you will find it way better than some other areas. If the Government receives funding from the World Bank or ADB they must think of us. Many times when we receive monies, we only concentrate on the main cities in this country but 80 per cent of the population are in the districts. If we link up all the districts we won't be seeing all these people crowding and roaming around Port Moresby.

Just like Port Moresby City which has become over populated and urban drift is growing at a very fast rate because we have not delivered roads to them and also we are not bringing the services to them.

Apart from that, I noticed that I regain my seat as a second term MP because I delivered the services to my people of Teleformin.

I see that DSIP Funds is really working here in Papua New Guinea for those Members who have delivered for their people and their electorates. I have delivered for my electorate that is why I am here for the second term and I think I will come back for a third term too.

For DSIP, some districts like NCD received K10 million and Teleformin also received K10 million but comparing these two districts, Telefomin, has no roads. We buy materials from Port Moresby put them in a container, ship them to Kuinga than we pay for air transport to transport these material to my district to build a classroom.

The landing cost for a cement bag from Port Moresby to Kuinga is K400, where you can buy it here in Port Moresby for K30. The Government needs to go down and take stock on this and this equalisation fund. The government must increase these funds for the districts that are in very rugged areas those that are far out in the ocean where the ship fare is very expensive. I would like the Government to increase the DSIP Funds because it is development budget and development money so we can develop our districts.

If the government allocates K10 million for Port Moresby and maybe allocate K15 million for Teleformin, I can deliver the same things that are delivered in Port Moresby but with only K10 million than I can only deliver one classroom while Port Moresby delivers more than five classrooms. Now you can see the difference.

So if this Government is very serious about getting down to the people with small SME's, the people in the villages right down to the remote districts to see change then let us really go down and take stock of how much fund we have given? Have those funds worked or not?

24/04

You spend money on the assumption that the same amount of money spent in Port Moresby will work in Teleformin. It will not work in Teleformin. It is very hard.

In this Budget we must use money in areas where we can focus on priorities and where services can be provided to our people instead of throwing money everywhere without any coordinated plan. Increase DSIP and PSIP so that leaders can continue to bring services to our people, if we continue to give K10 million then my district will still take 30, 50 or even 100 years for changes to happen in Teleformin but if you give me a road, I think this estimate will come down. You can give me K10 million.

So, when we plan the Budget, we need to take stock of all the districts in the country. Probably 20 or 30 districts have yet to receive a road. Let's concentrate on these districts without roads, let's concentrate on them, deliver roads to them and open them up. These guys can contribute. In some of these areas there are mineral deposits, when you open them up they can dig the gold and sell it and contribute to this country.

This is my Grievance Debate but those districts that some of us come from are very remote, rugged and we are still finding it hard to deliver the government intervention programmes.

So, as a Government, when you put up programmes, try to increase the funding for us and we will take it down to our people and deliver to them. If you continue to deliver intervention programmes with less money, how do you expect us to deliver to our people?

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Minister, your time is up.

Mr SAM BASIL (Bulolo – Minister for Communication and Information) – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also wish to join my colleagues in this debate. I am not going to say much, I just wish to touch on the power of the district development plans that each of us are going to write on how to manage our districts for the next five year, up to the 2022 National Elections.

In respect to the governors who are with us in this Parliament, they have provincial plans also. We will join the local level government plans to the district development plans and align them with the provincial plans.

At this time when we rollout our plans in the Tenth Parliament I wish to bring some issues that I faced in my last 10 years as a Member. I found out that there are many challenges in the plans that we wish to propose and manage.

We have seen that there are many interferences when we are implementing those plans. I wish to speak a bit against the NGOs and donor agencies and even the community affairs of the mining companies in districts which are playing host to mining projects.

I wish to say also that we must manage our district and provincial plans where we must make it a one stop shop. If any organisations want to come into our provinces and districts they must consult the district development authority and provincial governors to ensure that the project that they are proposing is in line with our plans or not. If we don't address this, many of those people working in those organisations will use the resources of those NGOs to gain popularity for the next election when we get close to 2022.

25/04

You will see that people with political interest working within those organisations will utilise the organisations resources to implement projects and when the elections arrive, these very people will compete against you. I have had this experience where a person from another electorate worked for a mining company in my district and competed for Elections after using resources from his employer to implement projects in his electorate to gain

support. If we don't address this issue, people will not respect our plans and anyone will do as they please in our districts.

This is my view, when we are able to, let us strengthen the *District Board Act* and District Plan so that anyone that comes into our district must consult us to see if their projects are aligned with our plans then they can carry on.

There is a foundation operating in my district, founded by a mobile company. I purchased some ambulances for my district and this foundation also purchased an ambulance for the same area. Had they asked me, I would have discussed with them about the control and maintenance of these ambulances. This is because they bring added responsibility on our Local Level Government and our district and this requires us to work together so that the resources they put in are functional.

Mr Speaker, we also have problems with our statutory bodies in the country, in relation to the CEOs being employed. I want to give an example of two of our statutory entities which are Mineral Resources Authority and the National Fisheries Authority.

Mr Speaker, for MRA, it is very important because when we are negotiating mining related issues we try to protect landowner interests, the district interest and the interest of PNG at all costs. Many times when we have these negotiations, we want MRA to look out for our interest. But recently I noticed that when the managing director of MRA resigned, he moved to work for a mining company and when the Managing Director for Fisheries resigned he joined the Fisheries Board and that is not proper.

If a mining company operating in Bulolo District has a former CEO from MRA, this CEO will know all the tactics and styles of negotiation so how will the interest of the Bulolo people be safeguarded because the person is now employed by the company. I'm saying this because our negotiations for Wafi Golpu Mining have all been dominated by this company.

Even in Fisheries, if a former director from NFA or MRA or any statutory authority is doing that, I ask that a law has to be made to change this situation. This law should stipulate that these directors must not be appointed to the board of the institution they managed for the next five years after their resignation. The managing directors must not be allowed to seek employment in the industry which they resigned from until after five years. In the case of Wafi Golpu, there is a former Managing Director employed by this mining company and he is coaching this company to defend and win all negotiations when we enter the round table negotiations. This is not proper, we are Papua New Guineans yet we keep selling our country by helping other people.

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I am bringing this to this Floor of Parliament in future as a Private Members Bill to change this Law. You all must support it because all these men will retire from their job and they cannot go and work for the industry that they served due to conflict of interest.

I also want to support the Governor for Enga, Sir Peter Ipatas's debate because what he mentioned is very true. I have experienced that in Bulolo District in regards to the two mines Wafi Golpu and Hidden Valley, which Wafi Golpu has just started and Hidden Valley, we have already experienced bad results.

I appeal to Members who are here today, if you have mining explorations in your districts, than why not we all form a group and try to share our ideas on how best we can get benefits from the mines for our people. I have been in this Parliament for ten years and noticed that many times, different Member's debate on different issues about their backyard.

During Paru Aihi's term, he talked about Angabanga after he left, new Member for Kairuku-Hiri is still talking about Angabanga.

In Bulolo District, I also have this same ongoing issue about Watut River pollution. When they dumped the material from the exploration site, it pollutes our river and this problem is still there.

Therefore, we the Members from all mining electorates and districts must stand together and share issues and problems. In that way, we can save half of the time and bring in some Amendments for Mining and Environment Ministers, so that we can fix these issues instead of talking too much in this Parliament over the same issue.

When my district experienced this problem, we sponsored a report from NRI, and it's written as Review and Assessment of the benefit sharing arrangement of large scale mining activities in Wau/Bulolo area of PNG. Any Member who has mining in your districts can access this report through the internet and it's all paid for.

Mr Speaker, lastly on Wafi Golpu Mine in the Morobe Province, we support our Governor and ask the National Government for this 30 per cent share to be given to Morobe Provincial Government so that our people and the two affected districts can benefit from it, Thankyou Mr Speaker.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 1 p.m..