

EIGHTH DAY

Friday 1 June 2018

DRAFT HANSARD

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
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LEE SIROTE

Acting Principal Parliamentary Reporter

EIGHTH DAY

Friday 1 June 2018

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

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

Sitting suspended.

The Speaker again took the Chair at 10.50 a.m., and invited the Member for North Bougainville, **Honourable William Nakin**, to say Prayers:

‘God our Father, you are Holy indeed and a fountain of all Holiness. We praise you and we glorify your Holy name. You are the creator of all things, seen and unseen, including us here.

We thank you for our country, Papua New Guinea. We thank you for the people of Papua New Guinea and for the lives that you’ve given us and we ask for your Holy Spirit to be with us and guide us today as we deliberate on important matters to advance Papua New Guinea.

Bless the Prime Minister, his deputy, bless the Opposition Leader and his deputy, and bless the Speaker of Parliament too.

As we join together, we once again come to acknowledge your presence Holy Father as we, together, say the Prayer which Jesus, your Son has given to us.’

MATTER OF PRIVILEGE – STATEMENT BY MR SPEAKER

Mr SPEAKER – Honourable Members, on Thursday, 31 May, 2018, the Member for Tewai-Siassi, Honourable Dr Kobby Bomareo, asked leave of the Chair to raise a matter of privilege under *Standing Order 97* regarding a *Facebook* posting by the Member for Madang, Honourable Bryan Kramer, aimed at the Member for Bulolo, Honourable Sam Basil, titled, ‘Did Dumb Just Get Dumber’.

Honourable Members, after consultations with the Clerk and the Parliamentary Services staff, the Chair was advised that it is a requirement of *Standing Order 98* that the

Chair shall state that he has referred the complaint or that he has not and does propose to refer the complaint to the Committee of Privileges.

However, before such a statement or decision can be made the Chair is expected to satisfy himself that there is a prima facie case for the Member for Madang, Honourable Bryan Kramer, to be referred to the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Privileges.

Honourable Members, in order to establish whether there is a prima facie case the Chair has had to consider *Section 115, Subsection 5* of the *Constitution* to determine if the Honourable Member for Madang's *Facebook* posting was in anyway excused by Parliamentary Privilege.

The *Facebook* post by the Honourable Member for Madang was a direct result of a *Post-Courier* report on 28 May, 2018, of plans by the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and Energy to shut down *Facebook* so that NRI could purportedly carry out research.

The *Post-Courier* report was based on a statement made by the Honourable Minister and Member for Bulolo. This statement was made in the exercise of his powers and the performance of his powers, duties and responsibilities as the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and Energy.

The *Facebook* post by the Member for Madang was highly critical of the Minister and casts aspersions on the intellect of the Minister.

Honourable Members, *Section 115, Subsection 5* of the *Constitution* states that, "No Member of the Parliament or other person is liable to a civil or criminal proceeding, arrest, imprisonment, fine, damages or compensation by reason of:

- (a) An act done under the authority of the Parliament or under an order of the Parliament or a Committee of the Parliament, or;
- (b) Words spoken or used or document or writing made or issued under the authority of the Parliament or a Committee of the Parliament.

02/08

The question that the Chair was required to determine was, whether the *Facebook* post fell within the ambit of this section. Quite clearly, honourable Members, there was no authority or order given by the Parliament or a Committee of the Parliament to the Member for Madang to publish by way of a *Facebook* post to the words that he published relating to the honourable Minister on the Floor of Parliament.

Honourable Members, the Chair will now draw your attention to *Erskine May on Parliamentary Practice 21st Edition*, at page 121 which states that:

"Indignities offered to the House by words spoken or writings published reflecting on its character or proceedings have been constantly punished by both the Lords and the Commons upon the principle that such acts tend to obstruct the Houses in the performance of their functions by diminishing the respect due to them.

Reflections upon Members, the particular individuals not being named or otherwise indicated, are equivalent to reflections on the House."

Honourable Members, *Section 8(1) of the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act* states that, "a person who publishes any words, orally or in writing, or in a cartoon, drawing or other pictorial representation tending to bring the Parliament into hatred or contempt is guilty of an offence".

The Chair has considered the responses given by various individuals to the *Facebook* post by the Honourable Member for Madang and has come to the conclusion that some of the responses clearly reflect a diminished respect for the Parliament.

Therefore, honourable Members, the Chair is satisfied that there is a *prima facie* case of breach of privilege on the part of the Member for Madang, Honourable Bryan Kramer, and accordingly the Chair now refers the Honourable Member to the Committee of Privileges pursuant to *Standing Order 98*.

Mr Patrick Pruaitch – Point of Order! Mr Speaker, in your statement you mentioned that there was a statement by the Minister for Communications. As far as I can recollect, there was no statement by the Minister on the Floor of Parliament with regard to this. There was no statement whatsoever. He only made the statement outside of Parliament as a Minister, not on the Floor of Parliament.

Mr SPEAKER – Thank you, Honourable Opposition Leader. There are sections of the law that I have quoted and I cannot make a decision. It is a matter for the Privileges Committee to meet and determine this.

(Uproar in the Chamber)

Mr SPEAKER – Order!

(Members interjecting)

Mr SPEAKER – Order!

03/08

PETITION

Mr Robert Agarobe presented a petition from certain Motu-Koitabuan electors of the Central Provincial electorates praying that Parliament establishes a select committee to investigate certain issues. This is especially in regard to benefits sharing, and the development of proper government policies or programs to adequately mitigate and compensate Central Province for the structural losses and disadvantages, as a consequence of the creation of NCD in Port Moresby, home to Motu Koitabuans, and given separate provincial status, subsequently rendering Central Province to be the only province without a provincial headquarters, or a major urban centre.

Despite NCD using the resources of Central Province in particular land, air, sea and coastlines, there has been no proper returns and compensation to Central Province.

Petition received and read.

MOTION BY LEAVE

Mr JAMES MARAPE – I ask leave of the Parliament to move a motion without notice.

Leave granted.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS – REARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS

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

That so much of *Standing Orders* be suspended as would prevent:

- (a) Order of the Day No.56, being called on forthwith;
- (b) Minister for Civil Aviation from presenting the Civil Aviation Safety Authority Annual Report 2016; and
- (c) Minister for Health from presenting a Ministerial Statement on Health Sector Performances Update.

04/08

**PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY –
STATE OF SECOND REPORT INTO THE 7.5 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE
DISASTER IN WESTERN, ENGA, SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS, HELA, GULF
AND WEST SEPIK PROVINCES – PAPER AND STATEMENT –
REPORT ADOPTED**

Debate resumed from 31 May 2018 (see page ...)

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

That the question be now put.

Motion – That the Report and its recommendations be adopted – agreed to.

Report adopted.

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY AUTHORITY –
ANNUAL REPORT, 2016 – PAPER AND STATEMENT –
MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Mr ALFRED MANASE (Kandep – Minister for Civil Aviation) – I present the following Report pursuant to statute:

Civil Aviation Safety Authority Annual Report, 2016.

I ask leave of the Parliament to have a statement in connection with the Report.

Leave granted.

Mr Speaker, I am pleased to present to Parliament the 2016 CASA Annual Report which is the 7th Annual Report of the Authority since its establishment in 2010 and the report

includes the statement of the activities of the Authority during the year and the annual financial statements of the Authority prepared under the Civil Aviation Act 2000 (as amended).

Mr Speaker, the Five-Year Plan period for the Civil Aviation Safety Authority of Papua New Guinea is a critical juncture for the realisation of the strategic vision of building the Civil Aviation industry in Papua New Guinea. In 2016, which marked the beginning of the second Five-Year Plan, the whole Civil Aviation industry maintained a steady safety situation, made rapid progress and successfully accomplished all major support projects and for this, I acknowledge the hard work of the former Minister for Civil Aviation, Honourable Davis Steven, the current Attorney General.

Mr Speaker, the second Five-Year Plan is designed to capture the goals and objectives of the Government and general public's aviation safety expectations of the aviation regulator, and its development agenda through Vision 2050, the MTDP, MTTP and the National Transport Strategy (NTS).

Mr Speaker, the appointment of the new CASA Board members in 2016 enabled CASA to meet its governance role and the expectations of the Government and the aviation industry to ensure that aviation safety and security is enhanced in an increasingly complex and evolving aviation environment. It also allowed CASA management to focus on its core safety and security functions required under the Act.

Mr Speaker, the role of the Board is to oversee the operation of CASA and to provide overall strategic direction and governance. This is important because the economic and social welfare of the country and our international reputation depends upon a safe and secure aviation industry.

Mr Speaker, the direction and major objectives for aviation safety in the second Five-Year Plan period, is to encourage compliance with the vision to be the leading civil aviation safety and security regulator and setting strategic goals for aviation safety in the near-term, mid-term and long-term and setting its mission to be an employer of choice.

05/08

Mr Speaker, the first role is in relation to our domestic aviation system at the National level where CASA PNG is the National Government's independent statutory Civil Aviation Authority responsible for aviation regulatory oversight, maintenance, enhancement and promotion of safety and security, with particular emphasis on the effective mitigation of aviation accidents and serious incidences within the PNG Civil Aviation system.

Mr Speaker, secondly, aviation safety regulation is a global operation, across borders, not isolated to one country. The aviation challenges faced by PNG differ to those in other countries and it is particularly beneficial for PNG to maintain its presence at International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) forums to collaborate with other States on common aviation related issues.

Mr Speaker, the regulatory function of an aviation safety regulator stated under Section 12 of the Act involves identifying the desired policy outcome through consultation and research; determining the best method of implementing the policy; and, when necessary, developing appropriate safety rules to assure the outcome. CASA recognises that this is a gradual process towards a tangible outcome and does not happen overnight.

Mr Speaker, in 2016, CASA through the Corporate Plan, adamantly secured the bottom line of aviation safety and security. It took strict measures to address the symptoms in safety management while focusing on rectifying the root cause of the risks. Working together with the aviation industry CASA has stressed the need and the importance of the willingness, courage, competence and rigor with respect to safety management to further consolidate the foundation and consistently encouraging safety control.

Mr Speaker, in 2016 the Civil Aviation industry in PNG maintained a stable safety situation. There was no transport category aviation accident, although there was one light general aviation aircraft accident. 2016 saw 455 incidents including 93 serious incidents, a sign of the industry openly reporting these incidents which is required by law.

Mr Speaker, when safety and security incidents and serious incidents are reported, the most serious incidents are investigated by the PNG Accident Investigation Commission to determine root-causal factors that has contributed to the incident with the aim of preventing future occurrence.

Mr Speaker, CASA PNG also uses these reports to conduct trend analysis to build a picture of how prevalent certain types of incidents are in different type of aviation operations. This helps CASA to design policies, propose new safety standards and oversight strategies to improve aviation safety and security.

Mr Speaker, remarkable progress was made in the effort to tackle key problems in the aircraft certification field. Compulsory industry standards were integrated and streamlined and recommended standards reviewed. Efforts were made to optimise organisational structure internally, resulting in the establishment of an Internal Quality Assurance Office.

Mr Speaker, the emerging aviation challenges in technology including advances in new aircraft equipment including components, navigational instrumentation, airspace design and

aircraft monitoring, Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) or drone/Unmanned Aircraft Vehicles (UAVs), tracking and search and rescue, aviation security screening and facilitation requirements are a few examples that the industry and CASA had to adapt to quickly in 2016.

Mr Speaker, the use of advanced technological innovations and fast paced development projects have produced an increasingly complex regulatory and operating environment with increasing demand on the aviation system and our manpower resources.

Mr Speaker, CASA and the industry continues to adapt to this new complex and technological environment which include developments such as new generation, fuel efficient aircraft, global satellite systems for primary navigation, improved airspace design and usage,

06/08

Mr Speaker, CASA and the industry continues to adapt to this new complex and technological environment which include developments such as new generation, fuel efficient aircraft, global satellite systems for primary navigation, improved airspace design and usage, real-time aircraft monitoring, tracking and search and rescue capabilities, and hi-tech aviation security screening.

Mr Speaker, from CASA PNG perspectives, these new technologies and changes in the aviation environment placed significant impact on its resources, in particular, technical training for Inspectors, development of new CASA policies and procedures, stakeholder consultation and communication and establishing a proper regulatory framework including implementation.

Mr Speaker, from a safety perspective, significant changes increases the risks and CASA was able to mitigate these risks through regulatory interventions, increase surveillance and imposition of conditions and implementation of a risk-based approach in auditing.

Mr Speaker, through trend analysis and risk based approach auditing; CASA was able to monitor any 'build up' of latent unsafe conditions within each organisation in a timely manner.

Mr Speaker, the ratio of high risk to total number of reported occurrences decreased from 31 per cent in 2014 to 30 per cent in 2015 and 20 per cent in 2016. This notable reduction in high risk to total number of occurrences ration from 31 per cent in 2014 to 20 per cent in 2016 is attributed to the increasing number of real-time surveillance activities carried out by CASA throughout the same period.

Mr Speaker, in 2016 comprehensive strategies were implemented to improve Papua New Guinea's compliance with aviation safety and security and to continue work towards

achieving an international aviation global rating standard under ICAO known as an Effective Implementation (EI) rating that is equal to or above the global average.

I think I have mentioned the outcome in the recent review and validation mission that has now given us a highest score of 61 per cent which is above the global average. I will present full detail of this when the full report is approved by the Cabinet. This is a big achievement occurring from the work done in 2016 up.

Mr Speaker, CASA has submitted 2016 Annual Performance Report to the Office of the Chief Secretary and the CACC for the preceding 12 months. It has also submitted its 2016 Annual Report in accordance with section 32 of the Act.

Mr Speaker, significant achievements have also been achieved by the Authority demonstrated by the completion of the audit of the Financial Statements of CASA for the year ending 31st December for 2016 and the results of the audit from the Auditor General forwarded to my office advising me of the result of his inspection.

Mr Speaker, CASA regulates aviation participants within PNG with a very modern set of legislative framework that meets international best practices in aviation safety. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has rated Papua New Guinea has having one of the best piece of Primary Aviation Safety legislation (the "Act") in place.

Mr Speaker, the second Amendment to the *Civil Aviation Act* of 2000, was passed by Parliament on 29 March, 2016, and certified by the Acting Speaker of the National Parliament on 13 December, 2016. The publication of the amendments through the National Gazette gave effect to the changes in the legislation.

Mr Speaker, the amendment has increased membership of the CASA Board by two members. The amendment also required that ex-officio proxy or nominee to be not less than at the Deputy Secretary level because of the importance of that organisation.

Mr Speaker, in the review of the *Civil Aviation Act*, as Minister responsible for administering our participation in the Convention and ensuring that our obligations under international civil aviation agreements, I have also established the National Civil Aviation Security Program for Papua New Guinea.

Mr Speaker, a review of the subordinate aviation safety rules set that are linked to support the primary legislation were also conducted and completed following consultation with the aviation industry and stakeholders.

07/08

Mr Speaker, at the strategic and management level, CASA PNG continued in 2016 to work with its neighbouring regulator, CASA Australia, and both have identified the aviation issues faced by the PNG aviation community align with the challenges faced in Australia and as both share common challenges. The bilateral arrangements between both these agencies provide an opportunity for both to work collaboratively and to move towards aviation safety improvements in the region.

Mr Speaker, in the regional aviation scene, Papua New Guinea continues to show leadership in the area of aviation safety and security. PNG holds the chairmanship role within the Pacific Aviation Regional Safety Office (PASO), a regional aviation safety oversight body consisting of 13 Member States from the Smaller Island States including our nearest neighbours, Australia and New Zealand.

Mr Speaker, PNG's leadership supports our platform to be a leader in the region and further demonstrates our credibility in this very highly technical and specialised field commensurate with the extensive aviation infrastructures we have in PNG. As the largest economy in the Pacific Small Island States, PNG can be a strong advocate for the Pacific Region.

Mr Speaker, CASA continues its engagement with the aviation industry and stakeholders both nationally and from within the region, and further strengthened with the hosting of the 3rd High Level Aviation Safety and Security Forum in August 2016.

Mr Speaker, with the theme "Rising to Future Challenges through Collaborative Approach" CASA was able to engage with the industry in an interactive and stimulating deliberations including sharing of experience and evolution of novel concepts and ideas to address both the current and emerging issues and technological challenges facing aviation in Papua New Guinea.

Mr Speaker, among other aviation security initiatives, CASA actively participated in the APEC Transport Working Group (APEC TPTWG), the APEC 2018 PNG Committee on Safety and Security (COSS) and has an assigned Aviation Security Advisor for technical aviation security support to CASA with the support of the Australian Government.

Mr Speaker, the 2016 Recurrent Budget appropriation of K12.27 million was not fully used due to the Supplementary Budget reduction. A reduction of 6.2 per cent was effected on CASA's budget following this and thereafter, the operational budget monthly appropriations were not consistent nor received.

Mr Speaker, the inconsistencies in disbursement of Government grant in 2016 following the reduction impacted in CASA's operation and management had to implement measures to counteract this reduction to ensure that funding shortfall did not erode further to a point where it seriously impact aviation safety and security oversight obligations of the Government.

Mr Speaker, manpower resources with the appropriate skills remains a constant issue with the challenge of maintaining a skilled staffing base to provide coverage of critical key competencies to meet our requirement. Approval of increase in staffing is therefore critical in light of significant increase in the new aviation technologies and complexities of aviation activities in PNG.

Mr Speaker, the implementation of Graduate Scheme Program to address the staff ageing issues is underway and with agreement between airlines to complete operational training for technical staff is continuing to build internal capacity for our national inspectors and sets the basis for future ongoing cooperation with the private sector.

Mr Speaker, CASA performed well in 2016 and the performance award was given to CASA PNG for the Best Public Sector Employer in PNG in 2016 was a fitting award to all the hard working staff of CASA and the Board.

The award gave recognition to CASA for fulfilling its people management responsibilities, demonstrated by leadership, dynamism, professionalism, strategic thinking and implementation with continuous improvement in its Human Resource processes and programs.

08/08

Mr Speaker, it is important that the Government supports CASA's initiative to build operational capability and that adequate investment is directed in the technical competencies and a recognition of the importance of the regulator in ensuring a safe and efficient air transport for the well-being and economic development of PNG.

Mr Speaker, the functions of CASA is consistent with the Government Development Agenda and the PNG Transport Sector programs strategy to achieve a desired outcome that PNG must be a safe place to fly to enable economic and social development.

Mr Speaker, finally, for this Government, the safety and security of the travelling public is the most important priority. The public expects us, the Government, to be responsible in ensuring that aeroplanes are safe to fly, the airports are safe to operate into and the associated aeronautical infrastructure are

modernised and meets international standards.

Mr Speaker, I commend the 2016 Annual Report provided by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority of Papua New Guinea and ask the Government to lend its support to this very important safety agency.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr LEKWA GURE (Rigo) – I move –

That the Parliament take note of the paper.

Thank you, Mr Speaker. Firstly, I want to commend the Minister for Civil Aviation for presenting the Annual Report for CASA PNG for 2016. It's a pity that our honourable members on the opposite side of the House are not here to listen to this debate for their general knowledge and perhaps education as well on these very important matters.

It is acknowledged that CASA PNG is the regulator of Civil Aviation in PNG. They are the custodians of the *Civil Aviation Act 2000* to make sure the Civil Aviation in PNG operates in accordance with the international standards. They are the ones who protect the reputation and the health of the industry in this country and they provide the oversight for compliance and conformance to the applicable rules and regulations.

Civil Aviation is a global activity which causes territorial boundaries and it's not only confined to our internal territory of PNG but causing into all our neighboring jurisdiction as well. As a regulator, CASA PNG has an oversight on all the operators including Air Niugini as well so I would like to continue this debate in relation to some of the very serious questions that were asked on this Floor of Parliament just recently in relation to the operation of Air Niugini.

First of all, it must be acknowledged that Air Niugini does conform to the Civil Aviation rules of PNG and CASA PNG makes sure that they do. But not only does Air Niugini comply to Civil Aviation rules of PNG but Air Niugini also complies to international Civil Aviation standards as well and in addition to that, Air Niugini also conforms to international air transport association standards and recommended practices. Those standards are very high and in some instances they exceed the requirements of CASA PNG.

When it comes to flight cancellations, there are multitudes of reasons why an operator would cancel flights and it may be due to weather, aircraft un-serviceability, pilots or crews getting sick and these are normal reasons why an airline or operator would cancel a flight.

09/08

And even those cancellations are also governed by rules and regulation as well. There are some rules in the Civil Aviation in Papua New Guinea, which says that, when an airline publishes a schedule, they have to fulfil or they have to complete the schedule flight at 80 per cent completion rate in order to meet the standards required. This is where CASA PNG cast their oversight on the operations and the health of the operations. So if an airline is not meeting the 80 per cent of the schedule, questions will be raised; why are they not meeting the published schedule?

Recently, they did admit their completion rate dropped down to 72 per cent, and I was reliably informed by the current CEO, that they have got back to 80 per cent. Indeed, it is now sitting at 90 per cent completion rate.

When it comes to schedules, Air Niugini for instance, base their schedules on the Northern Winter and the Southern Winter. And the schedules are based around their market studies. The number of the flights they operate, the number of aeroplanes, and the number of pilots they require in order to crew the schedules. So those are the parameters that govern the construction of a schedule. Just to give you an example, the maximum number of hours a pilot will fly in a day is 8 hours which is a normal day of work for most human beings. The maximum number of hours a pilot flies in a week is 30 hours, in a month is a 100 hours, and in a year is a thousand hours, so those are parameters that an airlines uses to construct its schedule. And then you also have reserve coverage.

Each airline will decide for themselves, how they will protect the integrity of their schedule by the reserve coverage they have. So what that means is the number of pilots they require to crew the schedules and on the top of that, they'll say we'll have 10 per cent more pilots or 15 per cent, or 20 per cent.

And once again that is entirely up to each of the operators to decide on the level of the reserve coverage in order to protect the integrity of their schedule. I want to come back to the question about the Boeing 737 operation from Narita in Japan to Port Moresby, where the question was raised as to the amount of fuel remaining for those flights arriving into Port Moresby without carrying a destination alternate.

The amount of fuel that is carried by any aeroplane, whether they are operating internally or international flights, is based on what is called the Fuel Policy. The Civil Aviation Rules in Part 91, where it talks about General Operating Rules, sets down those parameters, and in this instance, in a general sense, the fuel policy would be something like when you fly from airport 'A' to airport 'B' with a contingency of 15 per cent at a fixed reserve of 45 minutes

of extra additional fuel and any other additional extra fuel that would be required for weather holding and so forth.

And any airline will decide whether they will carry an alternate to their destination, whether it's a domestic operations or international operation.

I will just concentrate on Boeing 737 flights from Narita to Port Moresby. I understand Air Niugini operates two versions of the 737; 700 hundred series and 800 hundred series. And the 737 they use for the Narita to Port Moresby and return flights is the Boeing 737, 700. It has the range to fly that sector. On the leg from Port Moresby to Narita, it is not really an issue because they have a lot of airports within close proximity of Narita Airport itself in Tokyo.

The challenge is coming back from Narita to Port Moresby, and being an international flight they carry cans as an alternate. In some instances, they may not have the capacity to carry that fuel, and sometimes they may off-load the payload in order to accommodate the additional fuel to carry, or they may carry the full tank of fuel and not the fuel meter requirement given the long sectors they have and the fuel they will burn from Narita to Port Moresby.

10/08

In this instance, there are provisions within the rules where the pilot can nominate another airport, and in this instance they nominate Nadzab.

Let us face reality; that same aeroplane, when it does domestic flights, it flies from Port Moresby to Nadzab and back. What is wrong with nominating Nadzab as a suitable alternate for Port Moresby? In actual fact when coming back from Narita to Port Moresby, they actually fly over Nadzab to get here. They know about the weather conditions there because they communicate with the tower people there. It is perfect and legitimate.

Mr Speaker, let me give an example. An airline will operate within airports which are contained in the documentation or in the industry it's called exposition. They will fly to the airports as nominated but the rules also say that the pilot in command has full authority as to the disposition of that aircraft. In an emergency, the pilot in command is authorised to land that aeroplane on any airport of his choosing. This answers the question of Narita to Port Moresby operations.

Mr Speaker, it is really important for us to note, the reason why Air Niugini chose to put the Boeing 737 on that restructure was because of cost factors. Initially they were operating

the Boeing 767 and in fuel wise, it is a walk in the park. That aeroplane has so much capacity that it will fly from Narita to Port Moresby and even carry on to Melbourne. However, when you have load factors in the order of 40 per cent to 50 per cent against the fuel that you are burning, any businessman will tell you that it is more economical to use the Boeing 737. This is why Air Niugini is using an aeroplane that has a lower operating cost to carry the same load. If the load factors go up to 80 per cent or 90 per cent then the Boeing 767 is the logical option to use on that restructure.

Mr Speaker, with regards to maintenance, I understand that Air Niugini is making plans to do in-house maintenance checks or C checks. This is again for them to save costs.

With the two captain operations, it is not unusual because after all they are both qualified to be on the aeroplane. It is not the best option but still a legal one. Air Niugini does not allow any two captains to fly together. There are regulations or stipulations that anybody that flies in the right-hand seat as the captain must be suitably trained. He is either trained to fly as the first officer or in training or a check captain in order to fulfil the role of that right-hand seat. It is not the best option for two captains to fly together but it is not unusual.

When it comes to weather forecasts, the National Weather Service is one of the service providers under the jurisdiction of CASA PNG as the regulator but in the instance where the National Weather Service Officers are not there to provide the weather forecast for flights, today with the advent of internet, pilots can get the information from the Australian weather service providers. You can also call from the plane to other centres in the country for those information before flying to those destinations. On top of that, the pilots themselves are qualified and approved METAR observers. They can give weather reports to themselves and other pilots can rely on those reports because they have been trained to read reports from all sources.

In the terms of the heavy crewing of the Boeing 737, between Port Moresby and Bali and return, again, the argument was this is not a legal operation because of the lack of rest facilities.

11/08

What that means is you are exceeding the maximum number of hours that a pilot can fly in a day which is eight hours as stipulated earlier. So in this instance you are getting the pilots to fly more than eight hours and, therefore, you have additional pilots on deck for inflight rest and relief purposes. This is where CASA PNG comes in, and under their jurisdiction, they

will stipulate conditions as to how that operation would be carried out without the necessary rest facilities on a Boeing 737. So, once again, this is where CASA PNG would have stipulated conditions under which this heavy crewing of the Boeing 737 flight between Port Moresby and Bali and return flights can be conducted.

Mr Speaker, let me conclude by making this remark. We are now coming to the pointed end of an aeroplane, the flight deck itself and the pilots. Let's take the myth out of this whole scenario. Everybody seems to think that pilots are super heroes, flying aeroplanes through thunder storms and so on and so forth. That may very well be right like in the old days where the pilots wore scarves and flying goggles and et cetera. Today with the modern technology, pilots really are the systems managers because they are flying very highly automated aeroplanes so they really are systems managers. Like in the case of the falcons or the airbuses, it's like running a Windows program, you're selecting parameters using Windows selections and so on.

Pilots themselves really in this safety culture of the industry are the last line of defence. You have rules and regulations that govern the industry but at the end of the day it is really up to the pilots to fly that aeroplane from point A to point B.

Let's bear in mind that once that aeroplane starts moving, the pilot in command has full authority and he's got the last word on a disposition on that flight. He makes all the operational decisions whether he's going to depart on his flight, or once he is airborne, whether he's going to continue to his destination or return to the airport of departure or divert to another airport so those are the decisions that the pilot himself makes.

All his training, all his life time conditioning, he's always thinking safety all the time and that is paramount. But even without the training or the conditioning, there is such a thing as self-preservation. That pilot is not going to take that aeroplane if there is something wrong with the maintenance. If there's any doubt about the technical condition of the aeroplane or weather condition at his destination, that pilot is not going to depart. After all, he's a human being. He is a human being with family as well. So this is where the self-preservation comes in, so in spite of all the rules and regulations, this pilot also makes sure that he's going to live. And my motto when I was flying aeroplanes was, if I look after myself, I am looking after the two hundred passengers down the back. That's the guarantee so thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for allowing me to contribute to this debate.

Mr DAVIS STEVEN (Esa'ala - Minister for Justice and Attorney-General) – I thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to add one or two points to the debate on this important presentation by the Minister for Civil Aviation.

Firstly, I wish to commend the Minister for showing leadership and continuing the good work that our government had started and in making sure that this important sector is continuing to progress in the direction that it has been showing in the last five years.

Mr Speaker, I start by saying, the Civil Aviation sector of the national transport system must continue to be an example of a success story which the government, under the leadership of the current Prime Minister, helped to expedite and enhance.

Mr Speaker, this report relates to the work done in 2016. I am particularly grateful to notice, Mr Speaker, that in 2016 the National Executive Council endorsed what we call a Ministerial Statement of Expectation.

12/08

So we moved away from signing individual contracts with CEO's and we came to the board level with an expectation on how we wanted the board to perform, of course in conjunction with the CEO of CASA.

That Ministerial Statement of Expectation is attached to the report and marked as G. Why I make reference to that is because the CASA report and performance is a success story for our country. And many lessons must be learnt in this time. As I have already mentioned, when SOEs are continuously troubling us as leaders, performances of the SOE's continuously challenge our intelligence and our determination on how to fix them.

In the case of CASA, from reading this report, we can see the importance of leadership, especially in relation to stability, policy and oversight. So from the Ministerial level there was an expectation given to the management and when we look at how the management has performed, it is really are very satisfactory situation.

The Government in 2013 and 2014 did confirm the CEO of CASA and that was one of the decisions that were made. Today in our country we have too many actors, especially in Waigani. There are too many actors in Waigani, and very soon it will become Hollywood because there are too many actors compared to substantive holders of positions who have security of employment.

The important thing I can recall about the confirmation of the CEO of CASA is that it was confirmed with a clear direction that the incumbent CEO must have a clear succession program on who replaces him. I want to make this important note and I speak especially for

Mr Sagati. And I want to place on record my respect for this Papua New Guinean national. I consider him as one of our national assets and I am grateful that the NEC did confirm him for the third time to the position. He was appointed not based on other reasons but purely on merit.

Mr Speaker, and when we think about CASA and the technical role that he plays, it is not rocket science for us to realise how difficult to train and gain someone as experienced as an industry leader like him. And I am happy that on this occasion, politics and wantok system did not set in. We chose the best man for the job who is a national. But let me also go a step further to indicate that in choosing Mr Sagati, he is a highly respected aviation administrator, not just in the country or the region but in the global setting.

I have accompanied him to a couple of forums where most times he is well recognised and this gentleman has the chairmanship of PASO, the regional equivalent of IKO for three consecutive times. On the fourth occasion, no-one wanted to challenge him so they gave him another term as chairman. He is one Papua New Guinean that we should be proud of.

Mr Speaker, this Government also looked at strengthening the operations of CASA by introducing amendments and looked at the composition of the board. We tried to reduce the involvement of our government officials as ex-officio. We looked at the independent composition of the board and tried to emphasise industry representation and the independence of the board. I am glad the Minister has recently come to the Cabinet and secured the appointments, which that particular legislation has created.

13/08

Mr Speaker, I also want to place on record that it is this Government that gave that K2 million which CASA used to turn things around for our country, and I know the Minister would present a statement in that regard. By that intervention this Government has really supported the work of CASA. I want to finish by making reference in this report to the fact that CASA was awarded the best public sector employer of 2016.

Mr Speaker, we can read this and be happy about it but I want to go one step further to suggest or propose to the honourable House to consider how we can reward these kinds of achievements because this is not one agency that has an increased budget. From my experienced as the former minister, every time CASA comes to Waigani, their budget is cut. But let me say this to this honourable House, at 4 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. on a Friday afternoon, if anyone cares to go down to CASA office at six mile, you will find uniformed public servants sitting behind their computers still working.

Mr Speaker, I used to occupy a small office amongst this team of Papua New Guineans, dedicated technical people and so I know that they truly deserve the recognition that this report must invoke.

Under the leadership of the Board and Mr Sagati, they have developed a culture professionalism, integrity, respect and a zero tolerance against corruption.

Mr Speaker, I will say this and go to my last point on how I suggest we should support the work of the ministry and also the good work of our citizens down in CASA.

Firstly, I wish to speak on their salaries. When we talk about CASA, we talk about auditors, former pilots, former civil or aircraft engineers and industry experts that must audit Air Niugini, NAC, PNGASL, and when we treat them like every other public servant then we are basically taking away the sale. They cannot compete or recruit and retain the personnel that is required to continue to perform this important role for our country.

I am suggesting that there must be a review on how we assess their salaries and remuneration. Just like the doctors who keep complaining about their salary increases, with due respect, but the employees of CASA and the aviation sector industry and experts have never complained but instead they work very hard quietly to keep the aeroplanes in the sky and our people travel back and forth safely.

Mr Speaker, their story must be heard and this House must now begin to react to people of this sort. We need to increase their budget and here we talk about performance base salaries and promotion. Well they have just out-performed everyone in 2016, we can't turn a blind eye to that, Mr Speaker, and finally, the Minister needs to be supported.

Mr Speaker, this is a ministry which doesn't have a secretary and it's not a department that gives him the secretarial support. The assumption in law is that the Secretary for Transport will support him. But we know in reality it's very difficult because we have got the Works Minister who has the Secretary for Works, the Transport Minister who has the Secretary for Transport but the Civil Aviation Minister does not have a Secretary.

Mr Speaker, and for five years I felt the pinch of this arrangement. But I am glad that this Government through a Cabinet decision authorised the creation of a secretariat to support the Minister. And when DPM assessed this, it was only a K4 million budget allocation to create that secretariat.

In accepting this report and in highlighting the important achievements, I am putting to this Government and this Honourable House that the Minister needs to be supported. That Secretariat will then help the Minister to make important improvements on the work that has been started.

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For example, the Rural Airstrip Authority or agency now sits as a TPP arrangement but outside the mainstream oversight and per view of the Government. Continuous work needs to be done so that the Rural Airstrip Authority can now come under ministerial support of the current Minister.

All that can be done if the Minister can be supported by way of the Secretariat and I am hoping that the next year's Budget can enable that Secretariat to work.

Thank you.

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

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HIV/AIDS – MINISTERIAL STATEMENT –
MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF THE PAPER**

Sir PUKA TEMU (Abau – Minister for Health) – Thank you, Mr Speaker. Before I give the updated statement on Health Performance, I also wish to commend the Minister for Civil Aviation for this successful story and good debates that emanated from this paper. I continue to support the Minister to ensure that this important ministry is moving forward.

The level of debate in highly technical areas is acknowledged and it is good to see the leaders of today are given the opportunity to present. You are all qualified to be on this Floor of Parliament and I am privileged to be sitting among you leaders.

It is sad that those represented by the Opposition are not here to participate.

Unlike the CASA story which is a very good one, the health story is a mixed one. So while the CASA 747 has taken off from Port Moresby, the 'Health CASA' is still on the runway.

Mr Speaker, it is my privilege to inform this Honourable House on what my department and I have done under the auspices of the 2018 Budget so that we are on par with many challenges that Health sector faces and basically to update this House.

Mr Speaker, the second part of the statement will be a distribution of a document which I want us to take home and do night reading so that you can be informed on the status of the Health sector in your districts. Therefore, it is a pleasure for me to distribute in this Honourable House a report on the health status of our provinces and districts.

I hope during my presentation, my team will distribute both the speech as well as the document on our nation's health profile, province by province and district by district.

Mr Speaker, in that regard, I rise today to provide an update to the honourable members on the performance of the Health sector and on issues I believe are of keen interest to all members of this Parliament and to our people.

I want to ensure that all members are clear on the Government's commitment to improving Health Care across the country, particularly in a systemic response to the current health situation in our country, which will be demonstrated by the document that I will distribute as part of this Statement.

I take this important step to outline these issues to members. I want to demonstrate that the total value of funds for the Health system is higher than previous years and include generous allowance for medical supplies and capital expenditure.

The integration of donor funding with the general sector is a high priority for me as Minister and for the Secretary of the National Department of Health.

15/08

We are working in coordination with Donors which will lead to better use of funds, lower transaction costs and a smoothing of transition from donor to PNG Government Budget.

The process for acquisition and distribution of medical supplies and medicines is coming from an admittedly low base, but I will demonstrate that things are improving, and general medical supply contracts are coming on line as are the supporting distribution systems.

Mr Speaker, the availability of key disease category drugs. PNG is focusing on our situation on Malaria, TB and HIV/AIDS. We have to make sure that we are moving and, therefore, are improving our systems of managing funds to procure and also the institutional processes to administer care are responding appropriately to the needs in those three key priority areas.

Mr Speaker, I want to inform the Parliament that the globe is watching us as a nation in performance as well as giving us a good support through some of the global funds which I will mention in this statement.

Major reforms of the supply system are underway and we will see changes in the next 90 days particularly from now to the second quarter of this year. We are managing to make sure that all systems are working together.

There is significant work underway across the country in relation to the capital funding that we have received for some of the hospitals which I mention in this statement and some of

the infrastructure facilities like training institutions, community health posts and our commitments under the Budget for the hospitals.

I want to elaborate on health financing. The Health Sector Budget for 2018 is a total of K1 547 billion, inclusive of the operational and development budgets. This is a significant improvement over the previous year.

Once again, I commend the Prime Minister's leadership because for the first time, the national health plan's annual appropriation has met up with the recommendation of the plan. So this Government has made a big commitment to support the implementation of the current plan.

In addition to this expenditure in health funding held in the budgets of other departments, we have secured a specific funding of K2 million because nutrition is a big issue and I did make some comments in a debate on the issue of the impact of under-nutrition on the brain development of our children. So as a responsible Government we have made that commitment to address that.

I have spoken to UNICEF and to the World Health Organisation. Our department is putting up a strategy beginning this year, but on-going, in order to address the nutrition issue impacting brain development on the future leaders of this country.

Mr Speaker, the Prime Minister has announced the support to establish a standalone Medical University and K10 million is committed for that. The case is before court so we are managing the preparation processes. The Wewak School of Nursing was allocated K15 million and other nursing colleges at K15 million. Some of the governors have come to me with regards to establishing provincial nursing colleges. This is their own initiative which is a very good idea because that will complement the operations of the provincial hospitals.

Mr Speaker, I strongly support those provincial governments who are taking the leadership. We have some funds to help support and complete the exercise that you have undertaken, particularly in the training of nurses in our country.

16/08

Mr Speaker, reform in the management of health functional grants has been taken through a Cabinet decision on the Budget. As Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer has indicated, once funds are available, these health functional grants, which are so important for provincial health activities, must continue to come. We have budget support for that at K36.5 million for provincial governments.

Mr Speaker, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Treasurer's commitment to deliver the Budget this year will certainly lift the status of healthcare in all the provinces throughout the country.

It is good to see that at the national level, which is what should happen, there is a decrease in the allocation for National Department of Health because we are now targeting and focusing on actual delivery of health care through the DDAs and the Provincial Health Authorities. I believe this is a healthy direction where we need to ensure that when we do cut the cake, funds should not be held up at the coordinating and policy level. They really should be moving to where the action is.

Mr Speaker, for the first time, we had a big support towards purchasing and distribution of medical supply to the order of K214 million. So far, K73 million has been dispatched and I will outline in this statement what we are doing and what we have done with the K73 million.

Mr Speaker, under my leadership, we have increased the support of medical research, and I want to inform this Honourable House and our people that the Institute of Medical Research in Papua New Guinea has an international reputation. It is one of our proud institutions where medical research is undertaken and they have taken some trail-blazing research over the years through this important institution. In recognition of that, this year's Budget shows increase.

Mr Speaker, I want to go to the next subject which is donor funding. I have established a round-table program where I personally chair. It is a round-table discussion with all donor funding. The donor funding total contribution is 20 per cent. It is 20 per cent of the total health support. So this is a big volume of support.

Mr Speaker, now that the country has graduated from low income to low-middle income status, there are some requisite for global funds. So we are now going to slowly paper off donor support to the country because we have graduated.

Because of that information, I have taken a personal intervention to call all the key donors together such as World Bank and ADB and all the UN agencies. We have now established a round-table forum and I chair it and we are now able to better manage and integrate and, therefore be able to better report on where the funds are going and also to provide better allocation to donor funding resources.

17/08

So I am happy with the forum because we have had two meetings already with the support of partners as well as the central agency heads of Treasury, Finance and Planning who

are all in the round-table discussions. We are able to say where the gaps are that we need to concentrate on and what the priorities are, so we basically manage that process better than it had been.

Some of you may have complained that some donors are going their own way, while the National Government is going the other way. We have now stopped that so that we are able to manage that. And because of the reduction of support that our country will have because of our graduation from a low income to a low-middle income country, we have mapped out a three-year strategy to gradually provide the National Government funds to fill the gaps through three Budget cycles.

I am making this information available so that in the discussion of the Budget, we make sure that we fill this gap but at the same time, there is enormous discussion by myself and donor partners on this subject that I have debated on the Floor that we call it Sector Wide Approach (SWAP). We are able to progress this and there are certain programs that we have nominated. And one action that was taken was during the earthquake in Hela and Southern Highlands. Under that coordinated approach, WHO, UNICEF and NDoH were able to plan together, assess the situation and share tasks and responsibilities to assist the people, following the direction and supervision of the Emergency Director. We have tested those actions and they are working very well.

Mr Speaker, the effective coordination and monitoring is now very good and it is working. I will further inform the House on how far we have taken the donor alignments to our country's priorities. The next issue that I want to highlight is the issue of the supply services. This is a critical issue in which I have faced a lot of criticisms through social media and from people out there. And I must say that we have started from the low base. But in this next section, I will highlight that we are getting on top of it at the moment. Currently, the National Department of Health is responsible to centrally procure, store and distribute, this is the current policy now. And this is how we are managing the issue of medical supplies in the country. We are now looking at how we can further decentralise that responsibility so this year we will be trialling out with the Port Moresby General Hospital and we will look at Goroka Hospital which the Prime Minister made a commitment to.

We will decentralise these functions in the two institutions but at the provincial health authority level. And once we conclude the establishment of the provincial transit houses for medical supplies, we should then be able to further decentralise that further down to the provincial authority level; therefore, achieving our goal of empowering the lower levels of government below Waigani to take full responsibility. Coming straight to the issue of aid posts

and health centres; I have been advised that the stock levels at the primary health facilities through the distribution of 100 per cent supply kit from the first round up are now better than before.

18/08

Many of the aid-posts and health centres ran out of many of these basic items but with the arrival of the first lot there is three months of supply. But because of some areas where demand is very high they are now getting low so the next supply has arrived now and contracts for logistics already awarded so I am now instructing these four logistics companies who have been awarded the contracts to now organise themselves to start the distribution of the second phase now. And the next phase will be in August, so when we complete this exercise I can assure the honourable House and our people that the poor status of medical supplies in most of the facilities will be much better than we started with late last year. Because of the enormous support in the budget we have received for medical supplies.

Mr Speaker, a number of large and important tender processes are currently being undertaken by the CSTB. Four have recently closed and are currently undergoing technical evaluation:

Supply of Cancer Drugs

Supply of Intravenous Fluids

Supply of Antibiotic Drugs

Supply of Psychiatric and Anti-Parkinsonism Drugs

Mr Speaker contracts for supply of these medicines will be awarded in June 2018. The supply contracts are for three years, with annual review and renewal, based on supplier performance.

We now have a system where we are able to monitor the performances of our suppliers in making sure that when their contracts are signed they source those items and bring them as quickly as possible. It was best demonstrated last week by a supplier who was given the contracts to bring in emergency supplies of antiretroviral drugs was from India to Bangkok and straight to airport and they went to the customs themselves and cleared the drugs for distribution. And that's the efficiency which I want it to be.

Mr Speaker, four Pharmacy Supply and Tender Board Tenders were advertised this week in *The National* newspaper:

Anaesthetic, Antipyretic & NSAID Drugs

Anti-Allergic & Blood Drugs

Cardiovascular & Diabetic Drugs

Gastrointestinal, Respiratory Drugs & Others

Mr Speaker, these Tenders will close on the 22 June and will be awarded by August 2018. The supply contracts are for three years, with annual review and renewal, based on supplier performance.

Mr Speaker, in relation to the procurement of lower value and quantity items, quotations have been called for 18 months' supply of all fast-moving items including medicines, dressings and hospital sundries. Evaluation and award of these quotations is ongoing to ensure adequate supply.

19/08

Mr Speaker, one of our most complex and costly obligations in the supply front involve the drug required to treat our major threats to health, and these are Tuberculosis, vaccine preventable disease, Malaria and HIV. These shortages have been a significant problem to the system however I can report that current indications are that supplies are currently in hand.

TB Drugs: Mr Speaker for TB there are two lines of treatment: First-line for drug-sensitive and second line for drug-resistance TB. Stock of the various treatments are either, in hand, or arriving in the next three weeks. These stocks are adequate for twelve months based on current demand. TB is a current problem in NCD, Western and Gulf. So we are focusing the supply of this important drugs to these three provinces.

EPI (Vaccine) Drugs is very important and we must have enough stocks to vaccinate our children against those critical diseases. Current stock level of different vaccines varies between 1 and 7 months. We are working closely with UNICEF. The critical Bacillus Calmette-Gurerin (BCG) for Tuberculosis prevention in children has 1 month supply. Funds have been transferred to UNICEF for an additional 4 months supplies of these important supplies.

HIV/AIDS Drugs: I have already covered that. But through the support of our partners at K 4.5 million worth of anti-HIV drugs. In three weeks' time, those drugs will be available so we should be alright with our anti-retroviral for the rest of the year.

Malaria Drugs: The process for procurement of drugs and tests are always in combination. As of 19th May, drugs and test kits in stock is enough for six months. The second line treatment stock is adequate for 12 months. I understand that although there may be shortages in some districts from time to time this will be managed through re-distribution from other lower utilizing facilities. This was the case, when the media reported that PMGH was short of bandages and gauze. The nurse and the doctors at the emergency ward ran short of

supplies but the management failed to bring those back to where the doctors were working. So I made an intervention and we went to the area medical store and they were immediately supplied. Right now, as I speak, the situation is back to normal.

Mr Speaker, it was a management issue where CEOs and the board chairman were involved. We now have a system in place that when stocks are not available in one facility it can be taken care of by another medical store in the country.

So *Post-Courier* through its editorial comments said I was just fabricating, but I am talking facts. We are working on realities.

We are leaders and we do not tell lies to the people. This was a management issue and as Minister responsible, I have gone down to that level to make sure that our system is working.

Mr Speaker, we are now undertaking a major reform of the Supply System. The supply system in PNG has been undergoing significant organisational and systemic problems which many people have highlighted. In the review undertaken by the Chief Secretary as per the instructions from the Prime Minister, they highlighted many issues. So I have instructed the Secretary to respond and put remedial actions to implement the recommendations made in the Chief Secretary's report on the medical supplies.

So we have established a process and I have given them 90 days to make the changes happen. We will continue to ensure that those remedial changes are taking effect in addressing the gaps that the report has highlighted.

20/08

Mr Speaker, I want to assure the Parliament that this alignment is also working with the Australian Government support through Health Service Sector Development Program or HSSDP and the Asian Development Bank. So we are working with these supports to address those areas that have been identified.

I believe that we will be able to reduce our problems with the strategies that we are now undertaking in response to the report. This is one of the issues with the restoring of our health facilities in our country. We are making sure that when there is a facility based shortage, the OIC must report quickly to the authorities. He or she must not sit down and just complain or express it through the inappropriate channels like *Facebook*. Let us use the appropriate channels provided so that we can respond accordingly and address the problems.

Hopefully at the end of all this, we are taking a more unified procurement system. We have a procurement expert who is helping us to train some of our staff who we believe are not

skilled enough. We will establish a system that can be able to manage the situation this year and a better one for future use.

Mr Speaker, with regard to major new Acts, I am very proud that this Government is the first to be able to go back and get our key infrastructure support with the 2018 National Budget. For example, we have a plan for the Gerehu Hospital. A case study has already been done and we are looking at two options. One is the Gerehu Hospital which will be brought up to a level 5 hospital. I inspected the hospital on Monday this week and we believe that we can improve its current status to a better one to service the big population in the city but everything will be included through the budget process.

The Port Moresby General Hospital is greatly strained being a referral hospital thereby with more patients coming in from all over the country, we therefore need to upgrade the Gerehu Hospital. We have the staff numbers and also land available. The management is also very good because compared to the Port Moresby General Hospital, they are always restocking their medical supplies when they run out. This goes to show management rather than a lack of Government support.

With the Angau Memorial Hospital, I am pleased to say that we are progressing very well. While we have not provided the funding, the Australian Government under the leadership of the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Planning Minister have agreed to use their K70 million to continue with the construction work. In liaison with the High Commission, we are making sure that work is progressing well.

In reference to the Angau Memorial Hospital Cancer Unit, it is a sad story but I can assure our people that with the K30 million under this year's Budget, we are now working out an action plan to get that cancer unit up and running again to a world class standard.

21/08

Together, we are going to establish a Port Moresby Cancer Centre. The designs have been completed together with the heart institute. The first K5 million has been released last week Friday. So they are looking at tendering it.

The Board Chairman of PMGH and CEO are working day to day to get it up and running. I just put Kupiano District Hospital as part of the outside support. This Hospital upgrade project is funded through Tax Credit Scheme managed by Oil Search Limited. That is progressing very well so we demonstrate the opportunities we have in the Health sector for leaders to negotiate support for district hospitals.

The Goroka Hospital Surgical & Diagnostic Centre Development Project. K190 million was secured through VAMED and that is progressing very well and we believe will be opened before the end of the year.

Mr Speaker, the same VAMED group is giving support for Wewak (Boram) Hospital, The loan agreement with the European Bank signed to the end of 2017 and the Deputy Prime Minister announced that so we are working very closely with the Governor.

On the Primary Health Services Development Program, I will continue to negotiate with all the Open members of Parliament on how many of you will benefit for the funds we have for Community Health Posts. Some of you have already given me letters so some of you will benefit this year. We have an opportunity to be able to help you with your community aid posts, so you should see me or the Planning Secretary.

I am pleased to report that a further 12 are scheduled to be completed by the end of June 2018. Additionally, the Mabudawan Community Health Centre construction commenced work this week. Work is also commencing at Bulolo on a Community Health Post with complementary construction of 9 staff houses to support future development of a District Hospital.

Mr Speaker, a total of K25 Million has been committed by GoPNG since 2012 on this important infrastructure project. So apart from your DSIP we are able to help you with the community aid posts.

I have not put down the listing here but we are finalising the district hospital listing for this year. We are doing a five-year program for those of you who have missed out, so you will be able to come in the next four years.

Because of the limitation, I will cater for 12 districts only. I think the maximum one of you will receive is K5 million. Then the rest will receive K1 or K2 million. As instructed by the Prime Minister, we will be able to dispatch it under your DDAs so that you will be able to handle it from there rather than we managing it at this level, if that can be agreed upon, as per the Prime Minister's instruction.

On that note, I wish to highlight the report that you are reading already. Mr Speaker, I hope this will inform all of us better. As I said earlier, the 'Health 747' is still on the tarmac, we have not taken off yet. Our health status indicators as you can see are not very good at all. I will let you to read it yourself. However, in referencing this important document, all I can say is that in terms of provincial performance, the top five provinces in health performance are; Milne Bay, Western Highlands, Manus, Chimbu and Eastern Highlands. I thank all the leaders of those five provinces who continue to provide.

The five lowest performing provinces are; East Sepik, Jiwaka, Gulf, Southern Highlands, and Morobe. We know that those provinces have specific peculiarities in geography, road networks, and power networks. Many of us are in the middle including my own province.

Mr Speaker, I request that members take this report home and read it. In terms of district by district, we have recommended certain actions that you should take as the leader. So that you can fill in the gaps yourself.

Mr Speaker, I hope that the provincial and district centres update report for Papua New Guinea will be of value to all of you.

22/08

Mr MICHAEL NALI (Mendi-Minister for Works) – I move –

That Parliament take note of the paper.

Mr Assistant Speaker, as usual, Sir Puka Temu who is a doctor by profession has performed up to standard when it comes to health, so I want to congratulate him.

Sickness or disease does not discriminate. It does not care who you are, what you are or what you are made of. When you are in full form, 100 per cent, you will not believe how incredible we healthy human beings are and can do incredible things.

But when you are sick, even the strongest man is no match to sickness. When you are sick, what do you do? You go and look for medicine or go to the hospital and seek professional help. Many of our unfortunate people, those who are not able to overcome those sicknesses, do die. And that is the end of their lives.

Many of us have been in hospitals and some have experienced or come to a point where you do not have the strength to survive and you think that you are just about to lose your life. You then start to worry about your family and the loved ones that you will leave behind. But as soon as you see a doctor walk through that ward and even before you get yourself treated, there is already a nice feeling that there is the presence of a doctor.

Mr Assistant Speaker, in my province we have the Mendi General Hospital. We had a board that was put in place and then the matter was taken to court. And we have another board that is sitting there. The medical board is a very important board that looks at the affairs and the running of the hospital. I also realised that there is not one equipment in Mendi Hospital, and I have already spoken to the Health Secretary and he is aware of it.

I am proud to inform Parliament that I have made it my business to use my DSIP to buy some very important medical equipment. I realise that in Mendi General Hospital we have some really good doctors coming but they do not stay for long. They just come in and leave for the city or other parts of the country to perform their duties as doctors.

23/08

Mr Assistant Speaker, doctors are professionals with integrity and credibility and with that I want to thank the people of Jiwaka for Kudjip Hospital, the people of Simbu for Kundiawa Hospital, Goroka, Lae and Port Moresby as well.

I talked to the CEO of Mendi Hospital, Dr Berici who is a local but very committed young doctor.

Mr Assistant Speaker, I have used some of my DSIP to pay for a brand new digital x-ray which costs half a million kina.

I don't have the money to pay for an MRI machine because it will cost over a million kina. But I am able to pay for a pathology machine, ultra sound machine, cervix cancer detection machine, patient monitoring machine, ECG machine, two microscopes and two fridges that will store the medicines and vaccines. I advised the CEO to create an inventory for in the hospital because medicines are disappearing and are now being sold on the streets. Those people with medical backgrounds would know what these people are selling but others don't know but will buy out of experience knowing what kind of medicines they have been taking when they were sick. That's why it's very important that every hospital must have an inventory to know what kind of drug we have in the hospitals.

Mr Assistant Speaker, to pay for these equipment, it will cost me roughly around K1.5 million excluding the MRI machine. But including the MRI machine I will need K2.5 million to pay for all these equipment. And if we were to buy these sets of equipment for all the hospitals, the district hospitals in every province, it will cost the Government K55 million.

Mr Speaker, to my surprise, I also learnt something new getting into a field that I have no experience. The reagents consumables that these equipment need are very expensive too. So I have spoken to the supplier in consultation with the CEO of the hospital in wanting to get a six-month supply of the reagents and the consumables that I needed and if I were to pay for all these, it will cost me K2 million for everything.

So if the country were to pay for the equipment, reagents and the consumables it will cost K44 million for all.

24/08

As for the 22 provincial hospitals we will need at least a K100 million. The doctors are professionals and they have been trained to care for people. They are dealing with people's lives but it is not right for any doctor to give prescribed medical treatment without any proper check of the patient.

In many of our hospitals we have the medical supplies and staff but when equipment is not available, doctors are forced to prescribe without proper assessments of patients. It is not good for us to guess and treat patients. I am only briefing Parliament of what I am doing for my district hospital.

I thank the Government for providing the K10 million DSIP Fund. With the DSIP, I can do many things for my district. I am sure that the equipment that I am paying K1.5 million for will help my people. I believe very strongly that this equipment will stop my people from going to Kudjip, Chimbu, Goroko and other hospitals that one can name.

Mr Assistant Speaker, I am very pleased with the fine job that the Minister for Health is doing. I am also pleased with the policy for subsidised health in our country. The Minister for Health said he would have spent something like K2 billion in 2018 and that is a lot of money. Over the years, what we have done is that we always assume that everybody is good and that all hospitals are okay including our doctors. We can say that there was a very high level of neglect and that has always been the case or practice.

Mr Assistant Speaker, like I always say, credit must go to governments or prime ministers and ministers who are able to stand up and look at the real needs of our people and put money where their mouth is.

Mr Speaker, today we witnessed our colleagues from the Opposition benches walking out of Parliament. They are elected leaders so that is fine. You can walk out anytime or walk in anytime, but I do not know what crime the Speaker has committed by making the announcement that the Member for Madang is referred to the Parliamentary Privileges Committee. What does that mean?

Mr Speaker, I have been branded as someone who took over Mr Stanley Nandex. I am not on *Facebook* but I have photos there that show that I am like a Kung Fu king. Today, I saw three Kung Fu kings in the Opposition benches so I hope the media identifies them.

(Laughter in the Chamber)

25/08

Mr MICHAEL NALI – They are black belts or even past that. What is the other colour again?

Mr Speaker, I want to remind all the young leaders who have just come into Parliament not to be negative. Always be positive about things and if you feel that something is not happening or the Government is not doing the right thing, or if you feel that a particular Minister is not performing well, or a particular Minister and his department is going off track, all you have to do is come here. You are the privileged ones. Nothing qualifies you to be on the Floor of this Parliament. We are equals, yet there is only one seat for the people of Mendi so I am here. Every time I speak, I must be man enough to say thank you and to promote and identify. You have to be a real man to get up there and shake the hands of someone with whom you have issues and when he does something good then congratulate him.

Mr Speaker, I want to tell Parliament not to be negative. When you have something negative then come and express it on the Floor of Parliament. Let us address it as leaders of this country. Do not just walk out of Parliament. Come on!

Mr Speaker, if you go down the streets today, you have a very good number of people both young and old that keep blaming us for their misfortunes. They always think that it is because of you and your actions that they end up being in their current situations. For instance, they say, it is because of you that I did not eat last night or I am not employed or I am not in school. Everything is my fault but what do you think I am? Do you think I am your god? I would rather you get up there and fix yourself.

Mr Speaker, I think this is a very good statement by the Minister for Health. The Government has a lot of responsibilities. We need a lot of money to build roads, hospitals, and so many other infrastructures. We just received the statement by the Minister for Civil Aviation and it reminds me of how many our people living in our most remote parts of our country. When you fly over your land, you will only see smoke coming out in the jungles. This goes to show you that there are people living there.

Mr Speaker, we need more money to develop these parts of the country. When we try to start something from one angle to the other, there are always problems with the opposite angle. I think we as Members of Parliament really need to sit down and learn to use this DSIP properly to fill all gaps. Where ever the National Government runs short of funds, we as leaders must use our DSIP to contribute for the development of our electorates and our people.

Mr Speaker, I would like to inform the Minister for Health that as we speak, we do not have an oncologist in the country right now. The doctor that was working at the Angau

Memorial Hospital has already left and the therapy machine has already broken down. This is information I should have quietly passed on to you but since I have the opportunity on the Floor of Parliament, I must express it. The reason being, I lost one country man already and another is in a critical condition and they are both cancer-related circumstances.

26/08

There are many difficulties and problems there but, Mr Speaker, with the Government's commitment of K2 billion to buy medical supplies annually, I am pretty sure we will tackle a lot of these issues.

Mr Speaker, I stand ready to work side by side, hand in hand with you, Health Minister, to make sure we deliver good health services for our people in Papua New Guinea and specifically for the people in my district.

I would like to advise the Health Minister that I am doing my bit and I need the support from you as well.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

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

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday 17 July, 2018, at 2 p.m..

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 1p.m..