

## THIRD DAY

Thursday 19 July 2018

## DRAFT HANSARD

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The Speaker (**Honourable 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 10.30 a.m., and invited the Member for North Bougainville, **Honourable William Nakin**, to say Prayers:

*‘(Inaudible) I am the light and you are the (Inaudible) you are the Creator of all things seen and unseen. We praise you and give you glory. We ask for your forgiveness in our shortfalls. As we are gathered here today, in this honourable House we ask for your blessings upon us Lord as we deliberate on important matters concerning the people of Papua New Guinea, the people that you have entrusted us to lead.*

*Bless our Prime Minister and his deputy. Bless our Opposition Leader and his deputy, the Speaker and all of us who are here today. Send your holy spirit upon us, to guide us as we deliberate on matters today.*

*Lord our God we exalt you your holiness by saying the prayer which your son Jesus has taught us. Amen.’*

### COURT DECISIONS – STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

**Mr SPEAKER** – Honourable Members, the Chair is in receipt of Court Orders in relation to the Member for Sohe, Honourable Henry Jons Amuli and the Member for Vanimo-Green, Honourable Belden Namah.

The Court ordered recount for Sohe Electorate and has been completed and the National Court on 12 June, 2018, ordered that the First Respondent, Honourable Henry Jons Amuli, retain his seat as the Member for Sohe.

Honourable Members, the Chair welcomes back the Member for Sohe, Honourable Henry Jons Amuli, to this Honourable House and congratulates him on retaining his seat.

The second Court Order relates to the decision by the Leadership Tribunal comprising of Honourable Justice Higgins and Senior Magistrates Patricia Tivese and Alex Kanadi to dismiss Honourable Belden Norman Namah, Member for Vanimo-Green, from office on 9 April, 2018.

Honourable Members, His Honour Justice Dingake, after satisfying himself that Honourable Belden Namah has satisfied the requisite tests for application to apply for a Judicial Review and for a Stay Order, and having met all the requirements and prerequisites, granted leave for a Judicial Review.

His Honour ordered on 5 July, 2018, that Leave was granted for the applicant, Honourable Belden Namah, to apply for Judicial Review of the decision of the Leadership Tribunal made in LT 6 of 2015 delivered on 9 April, 2018, and recommended that the Plaintiff be dismissed from the Office of the Member-elect for the Vanimo-Green River Electorate and further ordered that the grant of Leave operate as the stay of the decision of the Leadership Tribunal.

Honourable Members, the Chair is satisfied with the Court Orders staying the dismissal and is of the view that the Honourable Belden Namah remains the Member of Parliament for the Vanimo-Green River Electorate until a further order of the Court is received rescinding the Stay and is entitled to perform his official role and functions in the Chamber and the Parliament Precincts.

The Chair is also satisfied that this matter is sub judice and before the courts and rules that no more questions and statements be allowed on this matter while the matter is pending before the court.

Thank you.

**02/03**

## **QUESTIONS**

### **Explain Delay - NID Cards**

**Mr KONI IGUAN** – My questions are directed to the Minister for National Planning, and are in relation to the National Identification Policy that was introduced.

I know a lot of funding was set aside to roll out this programme. A lot of people have seen the importance of this policy and have registered. At the beginning of this year a team was sent here to Parliament to have all Members of Parliament registered. Last week I had a group

of landowners from my electorate who were purposely gathered to collect ILGs for their land groups.

I gathered from this group that one of the requirements for having their ILG registered is a valid NID certificate or identification. Until now, a lot of people who have submitted applications to the NID Office are still waiting for their certificates and or ID cards.

(1) Can the Minister tell the country, how effective this program is because a lot of people are still waiting for their certificates or ID cards?

(2) If I, as a Member of Parliament, am still waiting for my certificate or ID card, what guarantee is there that simple village folk will receive their ID and certificates quickly?

(3) Can the Minister tell those who are still waiting for their certificates and or ID cards as to when they are likely to receive them?

(4) How effective will the program be, now that they are asking us to assist through our DSIP funds?

**Mr RICHARD MARU** –Mr Speaker, I thank the Member for Markham for his questions. Firstly, all Members' NID cards are with me so you can collect them from me at the end of this session.

The bigger part of the funding before the program was rolled out was used for the purchase of the system and equipment. A total of K20 million was used to acquire the system and have it set up in all the provinces. This year another K20 million was added and we are rolling out the program in each province. I was in Vanimo recently to roll out this program.

The problem with the system is that after all the information and applications are collected all these have to be sent to Port Moresby to compile data and issue the cards. It is complicating the system and wasting a lot of time. We are now trying to change the concept by having the cards processed and issued in the districts. We have to make the district CEO's become the agents for the Registrar General. We have to delegate the powers down to the district level so they do not need to come to Port Moresby to collect the cards. So we are in the process of changing that. We need to bring the powers down to the CEO, they know the people better than the Registrar.

They system is being changed to speed up the process of obtaining certificates and cards.

**03/03**

We are also purchasing more machines as cash flow comes in so that we are able to print and get the process flowing more effectively.

The current process is that all the forms that are filled in the provinces are brought back to Waigani. After processing, you stand in a long queue to wait for the cards to be issued, and this takes a long time.

I have given directions to see how fast we can get the cards processed within the districts. The CEOs of each districts must sign and give authorisation for all the printing so we can change the process and speed it up.

Our issue is the way the system was designed and structured but we are changing it now to make sure that we can deliver this service in the districts and with the support of members we can fast track it and complete the process within the next two years.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

### **Change Kandep Trial Venue**

**Mr LINO TOM** – Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is directed to the Prime Minister.

I understand and respect the independence of the Judiciary and with respect to the Member for Kandep and Minister for Civil Aviation, but as a mandated leader for Wabag, I would like to bring this to the Prime Minister's attention, given the recent bloody conflict that resulted from the Kandep Open elections.

The recent Court rulings have decided to actually bring the trial up to Wabag but the tribal fights are still ongoing. The conflict has actually resulted in the deaths of more than 30 people and the properties that people have lost have all added up to more than millions of kina.

(1) If there is any possibility, can the Prime Minister through the Minister responsible move the trial from Kandep to a neutral place like Mt Hagen, Chimbu or Goroka?

(2) If cost is a factor, can the Government guarantee safety and security of the people and property in Wabag?

Because recently when the tribal fights occurred, the Enga Provincial Government had to go beyond its budget appropriation to put aside money for Security costs and it is also costing the district a lot of money to look after Security forces up in Wabag.

Thank you.

**Mr PETER O'NEILL** – Thank you, Mr Speaker, and thank you to the Honourable Member for Wabag for his very important questions.

Mr Speaker, we have no authority to direct the Judiciary on how it conducts itself but I will certainly ask the Attorney-General who is our key point of contact with the Judiciary if he can ask an audience with the members of the Judiciary as he sees fit, without trying to interfere with how they manage themselves and the Court cases that they are presiding over.

But I will certainly take it on board and get the Attorney-General to communicate that to the Judiciary.

In relation to the safety issue, we have got an increased number of Police and Defence Force personnel in the province but if need be, we will continue to increase the numbers so we can provide security for the innocent people of Wabag who are being affected by this Court case.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

### **Dishonoured Cheque**

**Mr JOHN SIMON** – Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister and before I ask my question, I would like to say thank you to the Members of the Opposition on being part of the team.

I actually did not move far; I am just couple of steps behind you.

*(Laughter in the Chamber)*

**Mr JOHN SIMON** – Mr Speaker, during his debate yesterday, the Honourable Member for Sinasina-Yonggamugl mentioned a cheque of K1.3 billion being dishonoured by the bank. It also appeared on *Facebook* and this is very bad. And being a concerned citizen and Member of the Parliament, I wasn't very happy when I saw it.

**04/03**

Therefore, I want to ask the honourable Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister whether it is true the Government gave K1.3 billion at this time to -

*(Members interjecting)*

**Mr JOHN SIMON** – I said billion. It was expressed on *Facebook* as billion and not million. I want the Minister for Justice and Attorney General to take note. We have a cybercrime law as well and we need to be serious about this because it's very bad for this country. If we continue to report allegations then we are simply destroying our country. So can the Deputy Prime Minister confirm whether or not the cheque was issued and had bounced.

**Mr CHARLES ABEL** – Mr Speaker, I thank the Member for Maprik for his question. And at the outset I want to express my disappointment that we are on this Floor of Parliament responding to matters arising from sources unknown or social media and it comes back to the usual story whereby we need to get our facts right in the first instance.

But, Mr Speaker, just getting back to the point of the allegation of the bounced back cheque, I just want to mention to Parliament and of course to the nation that there is quite a strict process in place today.

**Mr Joe Sungi** – Point of Order! We all heard it from *NBC* and not *Facebook*. It was actually broadcast on the *Karai Radio* at 6 p.m. If it's coming from *Karai Radio* then everyone knows about it so it's a matter of correcting the information with *Karai Radio*.

**Mr CHARLES ABEL** – Mr Speaker, I am just responding to the information at the first instance. I am not aware of where it originated from but the only source that I am aware of at this stage is the social media allegedly. But as I answer the question, I want to state here that there is a strict process in place now. You will notice that several years ago, we were having instances of government cheques actually bouncing back. And in response to that the government has instituted a series of measures to try and make sure that it doesn't happen again or rarely happens. And so there is a debt management committee on a weekly basis that sits and assesses all the cash flows that are available to the Government in the Waigani public accounts. That is then passed to a budget management committee who sits every Wednesday to ensure that in that rationing and distribution process according to appropriation and cash flow, they only authorise the Department of Finance to release payments, cheques and direct transfers according to the availability of cash flow. That is why you will notice that rarely you will see government cheques bouncing back.

In case of this particular allegation, it's false, Mr Speaker, and there is no occurrence of a bounce back cheque. I have been trying to locate where this information is coming from and which particular cheque has been bounced back. And all the feedback I am receiving from

the Bank of PNG and Department of Finance is that there is no such thing as a bounce cheque to the Autonomous Bougainville Government. So this information, again, I encourage everyone to get your facts and figures correct because you are causing unnecessary concerns in the community relating to something that is not true.

So, again, let's show some responsibility in this sort of reporting please, particularly if you see something on *Facebook*, there is no need to react suddenly and must be brought to this Parliament if facts are given. So I completely refute that information and no government cheque has been bounced and we are proceeding with business as normal through that established process to make sure that government cheques are always honoured as they are presented to the banks.

**Mr ISI HENRY LEONARD** – Mr Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister for Police, and I want the Minister for Defence to take note.

**05/03**

The Provincial Disaster Office in Milne Bay recorded the entry of a foreign vessel, registered in Hong Kong, in the waters of Budibudi around April and May of 2018.

Local fishermen checking their shark lines found eleven bags of substance which the crew had left piled up on an isolated island. They then brought the bags back to the village. It is believed that the substance was cocaine. I have a report compiled by the investigation officer with the Customs office here in Port Moresby. I also believe that the PNGDF and a Royal PNG Constabulary as well as the Australian Federal Police were involved.

Mr Speaker, there is very little surveillance of the vast waters of Milne Bay Province. I am sure that this type of activities are frequent with pick-ups done by yachts and other vessels without any detection. In this instance, the foreign vessel has run aground on Tami Island in Morobe Province.

(1) Can the relevant Ministers inform the Parliament and my people what has happened to this vessel and what are the findings and recommendations?

(2) More specifically, have the crew of the vessel been detained and questioned?

(3) Where is the designation of this cargo?

(4) Was the vessel legally in our waters?

(5) If no, will the owner and the crew be charged?

(6) Have they confirmed that the powdered substance is cocaine and what have they done with this substance?

(7) Where are they right now?

(8) What measures have been taken since this incident to ensure there is more surveillance in our waters?

**Mr SPEAKER** – To whom were you directing your questions?

**Mr ISI HENRY LEONARD** – I was directing them to the Minister for Police and the Minister for Defence to take note.

**Mr JELTA WONG** – Mr Speaker, after the investigations were done, we found out that the illegal substance was cocaine. It was a joint task force between the Australian Federal Police, the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary, and PNG Customs. We are still in the process of the investigation so I can't say much. I can, however, tell you that all three departments are working together to get to the bottom of this. We have also started talks with the Ministers for Immigration and Defence with our counterparts in Australia and Solomon Islands and other Pacific islands on a joint watch of our seas. Once we come back with a plan, we will bring back to Parliament to let everyone know.

### **Eastern Highlands –Outstanding Derivation Grant**

**Mr PETER NUMU** – I direct my question to the Minister for Justice and Attorney General in regards to schedule 6 of the *Organic Law on Provincial and Local-level Governments* about derivation grant.

Mr Speaker, this schedule of the Organic Law provides the basis for provinces who are exporting commodities. It gives us a free-on-board up to about 5 per cent on every commodity that is exported out of the province.

**06/03**

The outstanding coffee derivation grant for the period of 2000-17 for Eastern Highlands Provincial Government is at K32.12 million to K33.8 million, which is due to the farmers of Eastern Highlands Province now kept in Waigani for unknown reasons.

Mr Speaker, the Eastern Highlands Province is the current leader in coffee production, accounting for over 48 percent of total export volume making it the single largest coffee

production province. On average the province is exporting 280, 880 tons of green bean coffee which generates over K180 million per annum into the PNG economy.

Between 2000 and 2017 the coffee farmers in the eight Eastern Highlands districts have brought into the PNG economy over more than K3 billion as coffee export revenue. However, our people, the coffee farmers and the provincial government have not received this K32.12 million to K33.8 million. I don't know where it is. Probably it is in some trust account since the Finance Minister admitted that there are many trust account very recently.

I wish to ask the Minister the following questions:

- (1) Can you give the legal basis of Schedule 6 of the *Organic Law on Provincial and Local-Level Governments* that calls for derivation grants, whether it gives Eastern Highlands the right to what is rightfully ours?
- (2) Can you tell this House whether or not my people of Eastern Highlands Province have been deprived over the last 17 years?
- (3) Do you think it is proper for us to go to court when the law allows us to benefit from what is rightfully ours?

We should rather obtain it through normal process rather than going to court over it. We have contributed a lot to this economy and my provincial government wants to rehabilitate the rundown plantations and his coffee money will still be used to help the economy of this country. And yet, how much money has this provincial government contributed over the 17 years, like the K3 billion and yet we have not received any benefits, even our coffee farmers have not received anything together with the provincial government.

So, I feel that these three questions that I have raised are good and that you can answer them. All the money tends to be parked in Waigani and nothing seems to be going back to us to rehabilitate our provinces.

**Mr DAVIS STEVEN** – Thank you, Mr Speaker and I also acknowledge the Governor of Eastern Highlands and thank him for these and important questions. It is timely because it is following a very important debate yesterday and a presentation on policies of the current Government on the topic of decentralisation, devolution of powers, equitable sharing of our nation's resources and so on.

Mr Speaker, I also want to acknowledge at this opportune time the leadership of the Prime Minister and the PNC-led government under its *Alotau Accord* policy ambitions to deal with these very issues and other important issues that affect our nation today.

Mr Speaker, the questions are raised in a manner that I need to be careful as the *Standing Orders* prevent legal opinions from being expressed.

**07/03**

But, given the importance of the three questions that have been raised, I will do what I can, Mr Speaker, to assure our people. The question also relates to the issue of how much funds are payable and that is a matter that I will need to consult the other agencies in Waigani and the other ministries to be accurate about.

Mr Speaker, in relation to Eastern Highlands Provincial Government's entitlements to what is called the derivation grants is clear and settled in law. Section 97 of the *Organic Law on Provincial and Local Level Governments* clearly establishes that. The honourable Governor has referred to the schedule under that particular provision and that schedule actually sets out the mechanisms which this grant ought to be operated.

Mr Speaker, what is also important in respect to the Eastern Highlands Provincial Government case and where our coffee farmer's entitlements is concerned is that the National Court has also considered this issue. I am aware of Court orders, where the Eastern Highlands Provincial Government has been found to be lawfully entitled to this derivation grants. Not only that, the National Court has ordered that these payments be made.

In terms of the short answers to the honourable Governors question, the people of Eastern Highlands, the Provincial Government and the coffee farmers are entitled to this grant. What is of concern is that certain elements of bureaucracy in Waigani doesn't seem to appreciate that the *Organic Law* and other laws need to be fully complied with. The Court Order must be complied with. If we do not observe the laws that we pass ourselves and if we do not obey Court Orders than who do we listen to.

Mr Speaker, instead of creating excitement on the other side, what is important for the national interest is - this is why this sort of questions raised by the honourable Governor causes us in leadership today to rethink how we do things and the important reforms that we are now making. This is why we need to support the policy shift and drive and drive that has been brought by the Member for Wewak and the Minister for Inter-governmental relations. This is why both sides of the House must support the reforms that are intended to empower the lower levels of government and give true meaning and effect to decentralisation as its been envisioned in our *Constitution*.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

## **Electoral Boundaries Commission**

**MANASSEH MAKIBA** – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I direct my questions to the Minister for Inter-Government relations or the Minister assisting the Prime Minister on Electoral Boundaries.

The question relates to Electoral Boundaries Commission. I understand that the Government has made a commitment to review the provincial boundaries and to split bigger provinces and create districts and electorates. For my district and my province, I understand our Governor has submitted papers for creation of two extra districts, particularly from my electorate which is big. It has a population of 140 000 with landmass of 40 000 square kilometres. So it definitely needs to be split.

**08/03**

I also understand that the funding we receive from the National Government is not fairly benefited by electorates or provinces that have more population and landmass than the provinces and the districts that have lesser population and less land boundary.

My questions are:

- (1) What is the progress on the Boundaries Commission?
- (2) Has the Boundaries Commissioner being appointed?
- (3) If so, will the report be tabled before the coming elections in 2022 so that the new electorates created are able to participate in the 2022 elections?

Perhaps one of the Ministers who is in the better position can answer.

**Mr SPEAKER** – Honourable Member, are you directing your question to the Minister for Inter-Government Relations?

**Mr MANASSEH MAKIBA** – The Boundaries Commission I believe comes under the Minister for Inter-Government Relations – I beg your pardon, the Minister assisting the Prime Minister on the Boundaries Commission.

**Mr WILLIAM SAMB** – Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the Honourable Member for his important questions, which are important to all of us. I have a presentation next week regarding the Boundaries Commission which will be presented.

To bring clarity to the House, every ten years by law, we are supposed to review the boundaries of districts and provinces so we have gone past that. The first review done was rejected by the House so we will do a new review this year well ahead of 2022 elections.

So I will be doing a presentation next week. Thank you.

### **Relocation of Kundiawa Airport**

**Mr BARI PALMA** – Thank you, Mr Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister for National Planning.

My questions are in relation to the closure of the Kundiawa airport and the proposed relocation of that service to Kerowagi District that was triggered by the good Prime Minister's announcement at his beloved Sinasina-Yonggamugl during his visit to the province at the beginning of this year.

A copy of the feasibility study conducted and completed by the National Airport Corporation in conjunction with the then Governor of Simbu, Noah Kool, has been furnished to your department. It confirms that Kup, the area near Jiwaka and Simbu border is idle and perfect for the development of the major infrastructure.

My questions are:

(1) Can the Minister tell my people of Kerowagi, Chimbu and Jiwaka and the rest of the people of this country what steps has he taken to ensure that this development is materialised?

(2) Can the Minister inform our people through this House that he will provide funding for the scoping and budget proposal submitted to the department in the next year's national appropriation?

**09/03**

(3) Can the Minister inform Parliament whether he has allocated funds to ensure the District Authority will prepare for the major infrastructure project?

**Mr RICHARD MARU** – I thank the Member for Kerowagi for his questions. I want to begin by saying that I am aware of the commitments that were made by the Prime Minister, when he was in Simbu, in regards to the relocation of the airport from its current location to the Member's electorate. It is desired that the current airport site would be turned into an industrial park for the province.

Mr Speaker, I support these commitments and since the announcements were made, I have written to the Minister for Civil Aviation to provide my department details of the costing and the design for the project. And also to confirm that that is the most viable location for the new airport which will serve both Simbu and Jiwaka provinces.

I am not waiting for information to come. I have had discussions with the Minister and I want to inform Parliament that I will personally travel to Simbu Province to visit the airport location and also discuss with the leaders on the issues of water in Kundiawa. I will also travel to Karamui to look at the Special Economic Zone. This will be among my priority tasks I will undertake apart from visiting the proposed airport site during my two-day visit there soon.

I want to inform the Member and the people of Simbu, that I will make sure that this project will be featured in the Budget next year and that it gets rolling as soon as possible.

### **Oil Palm Plantations**

**Mr JOE SUNGI** –Mr Speaker, before I ask my question, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Member for Vanimo-Green, Mr Beleden Namah, and Member for Sohe, Mr Henry Amuli and also the same goes to the others who have won their Court cases and are back in Parliament.

My question is directed to the Minister for Agriculture and is in relation to the ownership of oil palm projects in the country.

Agriculture is the backbone of our country and the biggest industry in this sector is oil palm development. This commodity brings in a lot of infrastructure to the most remote parts of any country, province or rural economy. Because through this development there are roads and from this connection there are basic services that follow on.

I have a background in agriculture and I want to say here that all companies developing oil palm in the country are foreign owned, and not a single development is nationally owned. We are only supplying manpower or rather labour. The oil palm developments in Oro, West New Britain, Milne Bay and the new ones in Madang, Morobe and Sepik are all foreign owned.

**10/03**

This is the agriculture development sector that will employ a large number of our people.

Can the Minister inform the Parliament if his department intends to purchase these oil palm plantations?

The Government must put aside all the money to buy off all the oil palm plantations in Papua New Guinea so that we can own them so that dividends can go to the provincial governments and National Government.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr BENNY ALLAN** – Thank you, Mr Speaker, and thank you also to the Member for Nuku for asking this very important question in regards to the oil palm industry in the country.

Mr Speaker, we all know in this country that oil palm in the agriculture sector is the biggest, leading commodity in our country and it brings more revenue into our country compared to the other commodities.

I would also want to agree with what the Member has said that this industry is dominated by the private sector. It is known that all the big plantations in the country are owned by New Britain Palm Oil. Also in the *OPIC Act*, the composition of the board is all from this company alone because at that time when they were going to pass the Act on oil palm there was no plantation that was nationally owned so the current Act only concerns the New Britain Palm Oil Limited.

The composition of the board now is made up of NBPO representatives alone. So, today we are looking at reviewing the Act so that it can cater for all the other new oil palm plantations in Vanimo-Green, East and West Sepik, Northern Province and many others. We want this Act to cover the interest of all the oil palm growers in the country. Before we do the review we want to put in place the OPIC Board so it can help us to make decisions in the review of the *OPIC Act*.

Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Member for raising the issue regarding the oil palm industry because for how many years it was dominated by the private company. We have sat with the directors of the departments and we are trying to review the Act quickly.

Today, after we have consulted the stakeholders and the board, the Board will come to Cabinet to endorse it then we will put a new Board in place and start to review the Act. And we can get the Board to address all the issues that the Member has raised as well as the other issues in this industry.

Mr Speaker, to buy back the plantations, we do not have a plan yet but maybe in the future when the Government has money to do so. We can also include it in the review of the Act.

**11/03**

So I thank you for your concern and other members concern as well. For instance, the Member for Talasea is very much concerned about this industry and has been visiting us often. Therefore, we will definitely review it so that it can address most of the concerns raised by our local growers and members as well.

### **Baiyer-Madang Road Construction**

**Mr JONNY ALONK** – Thankyou Mr Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister for Defence.

Since 2008 up until now I have heard that the PNG Defence Force Engineering Battalion has been deployed to certain provinces to carry out work using their engineering expertise.

Some went to East New Britain, West New Britain, Southern Highlands and they are also engaged in the ongoing construction work for the road from Baiyer to Madang. The construction of this portion of the road started in 2009 up until now.

The people in Baiyer, Madang and the country as a whole want to know the latest progress of this major highway.

As it is a major highway such contracts would cost millions of kina to start the work. But when this major construction of road was awarded to PNG Defence Force Engineering Battalion, it only cost K20 million to carry out the work.

Can the Minister update us on the current development of the road from Baiyer to Madang?

**Mr SOLAN MIRISIM** – Mr Speaker, I thank the Member for Middle Ramu for his question in relation to this important road which will link up Baiyer and Madang and it is one of the shortest route. It is also another alternate road this Government is embarking on to finish it so that it will be the second major highway linking the coast to the highlands.

Mr Speaker, before I go further, I want to thank the Member for Maprik for joining the Government because this Government has very good policies, therefore, he made his move to benefit from it.

Mr Speaker, this road will bring services to Maprik, Angoram, East and West Sepik also. One of the policies of this Government is to link up all the missing links and one of them is to link up Baiyer, Ramu, Madang, Jimi and Usino-Bundi.

Mr Speaker, the Government initially planned for this road ten years ago, and this year, it has allocated K15 million. Last year the Engineering Battalion from Igam Barracks carried out the work starting from Baiyer to Jimi. The land from from Baiyer Valley to Jimi Valley is fertile land and it is good for agriculture, and that is why the Government is planning to speed up the road so that portion of the valley can be utilised for agriculture purposes.

The length of the road is roughly 194 kilometres and about 105 kilometres of work has been completed. Starting from Baiyer to Jimi River is roughly 50 kilometres, Kalkal to Ramu Bridge point is 34 kilometres, Haiyom to Pokai Village is 21 kilometres, but 89 kilometres has not been completed yet.

**12/03**

This includes Pokai village down to the Ramu River Bridge which is about 34 kilometres. Simbai to Jimi is a very mountainous region and it will require very high standard engineering work.

Out of the K15 million, K1.5 million has already been allocated and work will soon begin from the Ramu Bridge. This is a priority road in this Government's agenda so the Government will continue putting money until this road reaches Madang and to Baiyer.

### **Highlands Highway Rehabilitation– Land Compensation**

**Mr MICHAEL DUA** – I direct my question to the Minister for Works and Implementation. Before I ask the questions, I wish to thank the Minister for National Planning for his good comments about the projects that we are embarking on in Chimbu. I also thank the Prime Minister for his commitment.

I thank the Minister for the airstrip link in Karamui, the cocoa project in Karamui, and the water and sanitation project in Chimbu. My people stand ready to see you in Chimbu.

Ten years ago, the National Government started the Highlands Highway Rehabilitation Programme. It was a big issue and many people were evicted from areas along the Highway. However, there are few groups still living around there. These areas are sections 9, 10 and 11 and the occupants are still there waiting for compensation payments before moving out.

The National Government is embarking on constructing a major highway leading all the way to Goroka and Mt Hagen so the presence of these people could be a hindrance to the progress of the highway.

Mr Minister, what are your plans about compensating these people? They will be a hindrance if we do not do something about them before the construction of the highway. We started moving out people so it would be good if we move all of them. It won't be fair and just to have some remain there whilst others have been moved.

**Mr MICHAEL NALI** – I thank the Governor for Chimbu for his question.

I think he is referring to the government project where K70 million of taxpayers money went to land compensation payments.

Mr Speaker, I am not too privy to the usage of that money but I have some unofficial reports that I should not even discuss here on the Floor of Parliament. However, I think there are a lot of grievances about that K70 million payment especially along the Chimbu part of the Highway.

**13/03**

It has become a major issue amongst many of the prominent sons of Chimbu so I will put this aside.

Mr Speaker, in relation to the Highlands Highway, right now the department and other organisations including ADB have already procured it and the report has already been furnished to the ADB Office in Manila for them to respond. It is for them to agree or reject the tender evaluation report. Should they reject it and say they are not satisfied with it, it is a process that takes a fair bit of time.

But, Mr Speaker, coming back to the compensation issues for roads all around the country, I have made my position very, very clear and that position is not personal. According to the law, all land in the country which are privately owned can be acquired by the government to use for public purposes.

The Highlands Highway is not a new road that is going to be built, it is an existing highway. I have driven through it from Mt Hagen where I went and witnessed the first excavation. The excavator broke all the fencing from Kagamuga Airport all the way to Keltiga. And when the people wanted to raise the compensation issue I told them that there will be no compensation. In its stead we will pay you for the little thing such as houses, trees, gardens and such minor improvements on the land. There will be no compensation for the land itself.

I also went to Chimbu and told them, sorry, you are good people, but the Government is not going to spend any more money. The Government spent K70 million on Chimbu alone

for compensation, and this is not a new road. We all know that 20 metres to the right and left of the centre of the road belongs to the State.

If any of you are not satisfied claiming that you should have been compensated but were not, we are asking you to go and justify yourself in court and when the court determines that you have lost this property, garden or tree then the State will pay.

But the State will not be held liable to pay compensation for the land that the Government is trying to establish major developments on.

So, in Chimbu, Mr Speaker, through you to the Governor, I wish to ask you to inform our people that the Highlands Highway is not a new highway. It is an old highway.

If you had built a house or a fence or a store within that 40 metre road corridor, you might as well pay the State because you are squatting on government land, it is not your land.

**14/03**

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL –  
JUVENILE JUSTICE NATIONAL PLAN 2018-2022 –  
PAPER AND STATEMENT –**

**Mr DAVIES STEVEN** (Esa'ala – Minister for Justice and Attorney General – I present the following paper pursuant to statute:

*Juvenile Justice National Plan 2018-2022-*

I ask leave of the Parliament to make a statement in connection with the paper.

Leave granted.

Mr Speaker, in the course of this Meeting, I will be presenting a detailed parliamentary statement on the subject matter.

Mr Speaker, the juvenile justice system is part of our criminal practice and procedure in this country, Mr Speaker, it relates to the most important and vulnerable part of society, our children between the ages of 10 and 18 years who come in conflict with the law.

Mr Speaker, as a state party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, PNG is bound by the obligations under this Convention. Some of these international

obligations were considered and subsequently domesticated in our municipal laws under the *Juvenile Justice Act 2014* (the Act) which this Government and the former Government has passed, thankfully.

The Act provides the legal framework for the juvenile justice system. It provides for both the administrative and operational responsibilities of each agency in the Law and Justice Sector, including the Courts, other government departments and non-government organisations who are players in the sector. The *Juvenile Justice Act 2014* also empowers the National Juvenile Justice Committee to develop complementing instruments to aid the work of the Juvenile Justice Services that work has resulted in the promulgation of the National Plan that is presented before this House today.

Mr Speaker, the Juvenile Justice Service is a core function of my department and is represented by a key performance indicator in which the National Plan was developed to align with my department's *Corporate Plan 2017/18 2022* and guided by the Act.

The National Plan provides in detail the work that will be conducted throughout the next five (5) years by the Juvenile Justice Services to better improve and strengthen our efforts towards our children.

Mr Speaker, although the department has its specific role through the Juvenile Justice Services, it must oversee the implementation of the juvenile justice system, monitor and report to the Government of its administrative and operational functions.

Pursuant to this National Plan, my department shall develop work plans for 2019 and onwards. These include the review of juvenile institutions, crime prevention programs, strengthening provincial participation and training. As part of this National Plan, the Departments of Education, Community Development and Health are guided as to their respective roles concerning their support in our juvenile justice matters.

Mr Speaker, we have the opportunity through the juvenile justice system to ensure that children who come into conflict with the law are guided back to become law abiding and productive individuals. That is the objective of the juvenile justice system and adopting restorative justice and rehabilitation means in dealing with juvenile offenders.

### **15/03**

That is the objective of the juvenile justice system, adopting restorative justice and rehabilitation means in dealing with juvenile offenders instead of sending them to prison all the time. 2

Mr Speaker, it is the intention of this National Plan to provide the administrative platform for respective government departments and agencies, non-government organisations, donors, civil society, churches and individuals through partnership with the Law and Justice Sector led by my department as the central agency to achieve tangible improvement in the priority areas of the juvenile justice system.

Within the five years, I intend to sustain the vision to improve and strengthen the work being done by my department and other sector agencies that come within my ministerial portfolio through the Ministerial Committee on Law and Justice.

Mr Speaker, I want to inform Parliament that under the current arrangement directed by the Prime Minister the Ministerial Committee on Justice Sector is now performing its duties unlike before.

Mr Speaker, on that note, regardless of the challenges, I commend the Law and Justice Sector agencies who have been working together on juvenile justice matters and I am grateful for the partnerships that have existed and continue between the government and non-government organisations, in particular the churches, civil society, donors and many volunteers throughout our communities.

The donors and international partners such as UNICEF and the Australian Government for the JSS4D program have been very supportive in both technical assistance and more so through funding.

Mr Speaker, let us continue this partnership and aim to achieve the priority areas identified under this National Plan.

Mr Speaker, I want to conclude by informing Members of Parliament and our people that a National Law Summit will be held in Lae in the month of August to deal with these issues.

We are challenged to re-think the way forward and in the words of one of our leading thinkers of the past, Mr Utula Samana, we pose the question “Which way Papua New Guinea?”

I commend the Juvenile Justice National Plan 2018 –2022 to the House.

**Mr KERENGA KUA** – (Sinatina-Yonggamugl) – I move –

That Parliament take note of the Paper.

Thank you Mr Speaker. I would like to commend the Attorney General for introducing such an important subject to the Floor. I commend him for this initiative. This sort of paper deserves the support of both sides of the Floor to move the initiative forward. It’s a very

important subject area and if we are to build a progressive future then we have to deal with our youths properly including those who fall foul of the laws if we have a better moment.

However, for completeness of our attention on this kind of subject, in addition to effecting system to deal with young people who offend against the law, we should also look at underlying reasons why they behave like that and end up in the situation.

I think our attention should also focus on parents' behaviour which may have contributed to the children in that sort of situation. These days a lot of parents are not paying attention to the juvenile, the young people. Parents are ignoring their responsibilities. They spend a lot of time at the buai markets and the child returns from school joins his / her parents at the buai market. That is why the child is not properly raised. Sometimes, it's the mothers who neglect their children and other times it's the fathers. So there is no good leadership here. They just adopt street behaviours and end up in the wrongs when this is really not their fault.

**16/03**

It is not their fault, so when we are talking about setting up systems to correct, guide and support our children we must also look closely at the behaviour of the parents. Either these children are being born with both parents consent or out of wedlock, we really need to look into it but the responsibility is ours to take and guide these children, until they are at the age where they can be able to look after themselves. And should the adult or parent fail to be responsible we should have policies in place to guide and regulate behaviours of parents so that they do not fail in their parental responsibilities on these children.

Mr Speaker, should a child be in trouble, it is evident that the parents failed along the way. The government must have some process in place that should the parents fail along the way, there are process in place to correct the adult to step up and take responsibility. When that is done parents will become serious in rearing and guiding their children, they will be guided to take on their responsibilities and their failure will result in them facing up to the consequences that we may derive. The consequences or penalties and or policies that we introduce will not only protect the children but will ensure that parents do not neglect their parental obligations towards the children. These children did not ask to be born so we have to take on our responsibilities seriously and look after them.

Children have the right to a family, proper care and education. When we provide that we will make sure we are building a future nation with good citizens for our country. It all begins with us parents.

The Minister has presented a very good statement. And yes we can set up systems to deal with our children, if and when they are in trouble with the law; but at the same time we must also look at the causes of why children act the way they do.

I want to ask the Attorney General and his team that when looking into this policy, can his team also look into how we can encourage, motivate and regulate the behaviour of parents to take more responsibility, so to not spending so much time drinking, chewing or playing pokies, and be at home for your children so they do not wander and roam the streets. The message here is I want to encourage the basic principles and parents must be encouraged to be there for their children.

**Mr NICK KUMAN** (Gumine –Minister for Education) – Mr Speaker, I want to congratulate the Attorney General for his presentation, particularly in addressing the development challenges that are affecting the young people of this country. The Shadow Attorney General’s comments are also true. Social issue in the country is affecting mostly our young people in the country. And you will note that most of the juveniles who get into trouble are found in our urban areas. This is evident on the streets in Port Moresby. As you drive up around the city, you notice a lot of them hanging around the traffic lights, peddling goods and near shop fronts begging for money. You tend to wonder, where are their parents, or do they have parents? And for many years successive governments have not given any thought or attention to our young children on the streets. I am happy that the Minister has taken up the issue as a challenge for this country. And if we do not manage this properly we will continue to face petty crimes on the streets and our security personnel will be drawn away from major crimes to little crimes. So I want to encourage all of us here that we should seriously look into this.

**17/03**

Mr Speaker, I want to go back and talk about the Government’s program, particularly in the education sector. All parents when you produce a child you know that you have a responsibility on your shoulders when the child is born. If you take care of your children properly, whatever they learn at home they will demonstrate when they go out. For instance, if the parents drink beer at home, their children will tend to start drinking beer at a very early age. How are you going to stop it? It will be very hard.

In terms of the Government’s Tuition Fee Free policy we see a lot of kids coming to school, however, there are many more children who are still not at school. What do they do?

They stand at the markets, chewing betel nut and engaging in all sort of activities which they are not supposed to be doing. They sell things that they acquire from these Chinese businessmen and then they go back and give them the money and the Chinese businessmen pays them only a small portion.

The Government's intention is very good but the parents have a responsibility to keep your children away from the streets and teach them to look after themselves and not to get into trouble with the law. I have seen children being chased, taken to the Police station and bashed up but it's the children that are not listening.

Mr Speaker, with that, I would like to say that we have seen a lot of children coming out of our school system at grade eight, grade ten and grade twelve.

Today we were discussing in the Government caucus how we do not have a checking system to find out where those children end up. Do we really know where they are or what they are doing with their lives? No, we do not know. It is very important to keep a tab on every citizen of this country. The only records we have are the students currently in school from elementary to grade 12 and those that go into tertiary schools. Some of these children are educated but are on the streets. You will find some of them on social media such as Facebook. They post all sorts of comments for and against leaders; these are the educated ones who are unable to find alternative pathways so they roam the streets. But mind you, this is a time-bomb in this country.

Juvenile services is one of those things and there are many other development channels that are available in this country so we need to properly address the needs of our young people in this country, not because they end up with the Police or Courts but for overall young people who cannot find an alternative pathway in the education system. What do we do or how do we manage those people? That is the challenge and the Government has continued to come up with many good initiatives.

For the last six or five years you have seen a lot of investments flowing into the country and again in this term of Parliament we will see many more investments despite the economy problem that we are facing.

**18/03**

Mr Speaker, some of our provinces in the country do not have Juvenile Centres. The Governor of Simbu mentioned setting up a Juvenile Centre at Barawagi and it is good so it can cater for whole Highlands region. All the other centres should support and encourage a regional

or provincial setup so that we can address our young people who are facing problems. But the main task lays with the parents of these kids and they must take charge in the upbringing of those kids on the streets.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr DOUGLAS TOMURIESA** (Kiriwina-Goodenough – Minister for Forests) – Mr Speaker, I also want to support this report presented by the Minister today and contribute few remarks to strengthen this report.

Mr Speaker, our country has come to a stage where we must address this issue very seriously. We have come a long way with this country and time has changed dramatically whereby we can't sit back and relax and ignore our children continue to misbehave and run their path.

Mr Speaker, many a times this slogan is being used by many people nowadays, 'prevention is better than cure.' We have reached a time where we must not jump the gun by talking too much about building infrastructure to lock our children away. Yes, we want to do this for the future but we must also seriously look at the current issue which most members of Parliament have talked about regarding this report.

Strengthening the family unit is the basis or a principal factor of this issue. The foundation of our country is a strong family unit, therefore, fathers and mothers must take their rightful position in their family. And their children must look upon them as their number one teacher in their home; discipline must come from both mother and father. When the son is at fault then the father must step in to discipline his son likewise to mother and daughter.

We have reached a certain period whereby the young girls no longer feel the love, care and guidance in their own homes so they go outside and look for warmth elsewhere. That's one major contributing factor why we see a lot of young girls facing unwanted pregnancies in this country. That is why it's very important that we must strengthen the foundation of this country and that is the family unit. As parents we must strengthen our responsibilities in the family. And I fully support what my colleague from the Opposition side mentioned about strengthening responsibilities of parents.

The Bible states clearly that spanking a child won't kill the child but will strengthen the path of a child.

We, in the Forest Department, believe that when a tree is planted, we need to check on how it is growing while it is young but if you ignore it and it grows wrongly, you cannot go back to straighten it.

**19/03**

This is exactly the same with us as parents. When our kids are small, we must discipline them. We can't do it when they get old.

Mr Speaker, I also wish to debate on the development endeavours of this country. In midst of our development endeavours, we have done away with some of the natural parks where our parents can go and socialise with their children or have bonding times.

We have removed those parks and replaced them with high-rise buildings. When it comes to weekends, what do we do? The parents go and look for whatever they have to do and kids go looking for a playing field on the street.

We are seeing a lot of clubs popping up everywhere and so parents are spending more time there and less time with their kids. Therefore in our endeavours for development, we must also have areas for social activities for our children and their parents for their bonding.

Mr Deputy Speaker, our churches must be supported in a very serious manner. The spiritual upbringing of a child is very important. When children are very young, we must teach them and encourage them to go to church. We cannot leave them in the house while we parents go to church alone. We cannot keep leaving them behind and expect them to grow up with Christian principals. When they grow up and misbehave, who then do we blame? We cannot run to the pastor and expect him to council the child because it was not his responsibility in the first place. It is our responsibility therefore we must make sure it happens that way.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the other issue I wish to debate on is the age group of youths. What is the age group of youths? Today, I heard that for juveniles, it is between 10 years to 18 years but when one becomes a parent before 18 years or 19 years then you would have already lost your privilege of being a youth.

Today, when you turn up for a youth activity whether it is sporting or church activities, the young parents are there. They still regard themselves as youths. This then affects the child who is supposed to be part of the youth group. The child space is taken up by the parents. I therefore think that we should revisit the definition of youth and find out where we went wrong.

Mr Deputy Speaker, most of us seated in this Chamber, one way or another, were raised through traditional upbringing. The guidelines, rules and regulations were done in our own traditional ways. When we went wrong our people criticised us by saying that the custom does not allow you to do so. However, today, we have walked away from those traditional customs and guidelines.

I think it will be good if our traditional ways of doing things to guide and protect us be made into laws. Back in the 70s one of the responsibilities of the older members of the family was to go out and look for the younger ones if they were not home by sundown. But today that responsibility is no longer there.

Today, when kids leave the house and are not back, we allow them to spend the night in their friend's house. What guarantee do we have that there are adults watching over our kids and guiding them in a proper way?

Mr Deputy Speaker, in conclusion, I believe that the basis and guidance of families must be strengthened and parents must be held responsible for the wrong doings of their children.

**20/03**

**Mr MICHAEL DUA** (Chimbu) – Mr Speaker, I am impressed with the good report presented by the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General.

This is a big issue in our country. As leaders sitting here we have a big responsibility. We cannot blame the parents, they have brought them up in their domestic environment where they were sheltered, safe and secure.

When they come out, they are exposed to all kinds of things and worldly influences pollute their minds. All sorts of things come in and influence them and you can't control them. When they are small we can control them but not when they have grown up. They operate independently and when you talk about youths, they are at a stage in their lives where they are very excited and want to experience anything.

So, our responsibility is not to pass the blame to parents all the time. What are we leaders doing? Every year the government gives us a lot of money. Do you have any plans for these youths or not?

When we don't keep them occupied and busy they go out and engage in all sorts of activities. The Bible says, an empty mind is the workshop of the devil. When you don't keep them occupied they go out and do all sorts of negative things because the devil influences them in all sorts of negative behaviour.

The Government allocates a budget but what programmes have you prepared for your districts and provinces? Do you have any plans for those youths or not? We need to come up with tangible, workable programmes to keep these people busy. If they don't have school fees, use the money to shove them into schools. Options like these are open. We cannot also point

fingers at the parents. As leaders we have to take responsibility and put things where the mouth is and make things work for the people.

I cannot continue with this tirade, we are talking about the unruly children we have in the communities and discussing the issue. We have centres such as the one in Erap and one in Wewak where we can send them far away to rehabilitate them to correct their negative behaviour. But it has to be done where they are. We cannot send them away from their home towns.

These options are open so leaders must take the responsibility. We must not accuse other people, we must take it on board and look after our youths in the provinces and come up with sports activities or other such items to keep them busy. When they have nothing to do they resort to marijuana and homebrew and such things like those. And then we come and complain and make a lot of comments in here.

Where have we parked their money? People's money should be given back to the people, engage them in good activities and other such things.

I thank the Minister responsible for the good programme. Chimbu is keen on establishing a juvenile centre so if you have any means of assisting us please assist us. We want to have it close to the CS Institution. There is a school there also but there is vacant land in between them so we want to establish the centre so that they can become prisoners on one side as well as being students on the other side. So when the government gives us the funds we want to use it to cater for our youths.

As you can see today, Chimbu is giving priority to our youths. We are engaging them in all sorts of activities such as sports and keeping them occupied. And this is what we all should do.

So, thank you for the good report, Mr Minister, but when we come and knock on your door do not turn your back on us, you must help us to look after the youths of Chimbu.

**Dr LINO TOM** (Wabag) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I thank the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General for the good paper he presented.

I think it is a very important paper where we are trying to manage the outcome of a system we have in place.

**21/01**

Our children's behaviour is the result of the system we have in place. Coming from a profession where we base most of our observations and we make most of our decisions based

on research throughout the world, research has shown that the biggest influence in the lives of children is peer influence. Parents are becoming less influential. I feel that this is a very important issue because children are the future of our country.

I wish to express two points. The first mentors for children are their parents and their teachers, therefore, we have to look after our teachers well. Our education system is crowded so I think we have to look at policies that will improve the system to help our children grow up into decent people.

I think our population growth rate of three per cent is one of the highest in the region. We are bringing children into the world without having the infrastructure to look after them well. I think the Government needs to create policies that control our population growth. If we can't do that, the rate of population growth will overcome the infrastructures, especially the basic services such as education and health. If we don't have that in place, they we will over populate the systems we have in place and we will have a big problem in our society. Although we may underestimate it, it is a time-bomb that is waiting for us.

I thank the Minister and I think the Government should look seriously at putting a policy in place to control population growth. If parents can't look after their children then we have to have some policies that limit the number of children they have. It may seem like a bad policy but for the future of our nation we have to have a policy that limits parents from having more children so that they can give quality care to the limited number of children they have. If we keep producing children without the capability to give them quality care that's when we start breeding criminals.

Secondly, the Government must look at the education policy. In the past we were about 31 students in a class, today there's about 70 students in a class. When there is overcrowding, negligence creeps in. Negligence gives opportunity to be raised improperly and because of that I feel that the policy on population growth must be reviewed because if we don't our basic services will be overcrowded. We won't be able to provide quality health care to the people, we also won't be able to give basic health education services to the people and that is where we start creating a population of outlaws.

Today, when we visit the social media, the level of written English of engineers and doctors is dropping. This shows the level of education and basic services provided to our future leaders. I think it is about time we look seriously at the population growth and put in place policies to control our population growth. Because if we can't put in the infrastructures in time for this population growth we have a ticking time-bomb that is just around the corner where we as a nation are not prepared to meet. Thankyou.

**Mr PETER YAMA** (Madang) – Thank you Mr Speaker. Before I join the others in supporting this statement. I want to personally thank the Prime Minister for visiting Madang where he closed the Governors’ Conference .The first reform of Government was in 1995 when Sir Julius and Mr Haiveta brought the local governments and provincial governments into play. This reform was overdue. So I thank the Minister for Provincial and Local Level Governments for bringing this meeting to Madang where 22 governors attended.

**22/03**

On behalf of the people of Madang, I acknowledge and thank you all for coming. The reform was timely and I believe it will influence a lot changes in the provinces in terms of service delivery sanctions and partnership agreement.

This is encouraging and will strengthen the work of all the governors in their respective provinces.

I commend the Minister for presenting the Juvenile Justice National Plan 2018 – 2022 to Parliament. I will support his efforts. We should all support his effort and ask ourselves as to why our young people are involved in such behaviour. We would like to erect prison camps as well as inject more funds into them. We would like to increase our Police manpower to 10 000 and increase court house staff as well as engage more magistrate. But before we do that, let’s ask ourselves as leaders; when the white men came to Papua New Guinea, they managed our people in Chimbu, Enga, Southern Highlands, Western Highlands and PNG as a whole, but did they face any law and order issues like what’s happening now?

We have to take serious measures to address this issue from the beginning. Let us get to the bottom of this issue and sort it out once and for all. Let us transform these young people to become good citizens of our country.

I think the issue is the drop-out rate from 1975 since gaining independence is a contributing factor. Ninety percent went through formal education while the drop-outs remained in the villages. It is almost 43 years since independence.

I support what the Minister for Forest in saying that some adults are attending meetings and regarding themselves as youths because they are the drop-outs. So the youth of today who are drop-outs will create more trouble for this country.

One day these youths will collaborate and will stand against the government authority and the Police Force. Why? Because they do not have a purpose in life. They don’t have a plan. There is no formal education and there is no home. They don’t care whether they die nor not

or whether they are from Enga, Goilala or Simbu but so long as they have a common interest for survival.

It is the peer group that matters as mentioned by the Member for Wabag. That is correct because peer groups get together to survive through different ranks and files, completely different compared to other well-educated class. So they are the one causing trouble for us in this country.

Mr Speaker, the Government must seriously address this issue. That is why in a small way and with the little money I get I am trying to do something for my people in Madang especially my small boys on the streets.

If I can try this model and if it does not work then at least everybody can try. I have 100 students travelling to Philippines on Monday and if I can put another 200 down at least I have tried somewhere.

At least through such arrangement they can expand their knowledge and enhance their ability. They can learn new ways of doing things that can influence and motivate a change in their lives.

We need to do something in this country. Why putting K300 million into infrastructure when we should use that money to build up our human resources and locate it in Aseki or Madang. And get 30 to 40 thousand youths throughout the country and send them there to study. They may change them there.

### **23/03**

This is a challenge for every one of us. Rather than building one road, use the money to make life better for them. Bring in teachers from Philippines, Burma or from wherever to come and impart skills and knowledge to them. Give them a new hope to become better citizens. Injecting more money to beef up the Police Force and acquiring ammunition and weapons is not doing any good because we are still facing issues in curbing law and order. We are still seeing children beg on the streets and we still have them pick-pocketing and snatching bags on the streets. If we address this issue, we are going to cut down on costs for new recruits, new judges and new laws. I tell you we will see a chain reaction.

We will cut down our costs on the enforcement and implementation of laws if we address the issue surrounding our youths and juveniles. My call is get 50 000 of these youths, bring them to a new place, maybe call it New town or even O'Neill City or something, so if you die and perish they will remember you. Give them a new city of hope. This country is blessed and we can prosper, but how can we prosper if we do not love our own children? And

the Minister for Finance is sitting over there, every time we go to church, we preach about giving one-tenth. When will we give God one-tenth of the country's Budget?

Mr Speaker, we do not see God so why can't we give it to the children. Even when we die we cannot come before him because we will all melt. We might as well do the right thing and put one-tenth of the Budget and give it to the Youths. Place them in a new city and try give them a new life.

Once we provide all these and if they fail us, then we tell them they were drop-outs and we gave them a second chance. We now have all the right to put a gun on them, because we gave them a chance and they failed. We have never given them that opportunity and yet we talk about guns, police and increasing the Budget and stuff like that. We seem to be talking about the same issues over and over again and I am already sick of this Parliament.

Let us stop all these nonsense and talk about the real issues. They are our children. We all have children. Maybe we have the most number of children, who knows. We look after and some others we neglect them. We must address this to show that we love our children and we care for them to give them hope.

**24/03**

I made it clear during the Conference in Madang that I can't beat Sir Peter Ipatas because he made the right decisions at the right time and in the right place. I will have to be a plumber or a carpenter and or become a tradesman so that I can try to catch up so one day when you need the best people to do the labour work, I will do the labour work. I believe in that because I made that decision in my own life. I was a policeman but I chose to become a security guard and I resigned from the Police Force. It was a choice I made; I was at a cross-road and I made that decision.

If I was a policeman today, I would be an inspector or sergeant and I will never reach chief inspector rank because people like me will get charged over and over and they will give me –

*(Laughter in the Chamber)*

**Mr PETER YAMA** – I made the right choice and became a security guard and I think the challenge in life is let us get our children and give them some hope in life and at least they must learn something to give a meaningful participation in our country.

I know that I will make a difference in my province because I have got 100 students and I will put another 200 next year and I will make sure to clean up Madang Town. I have already started, all the young girls and boys call me ‘father’ and they love me. The roads are clean, they are cleaning rubbish themselves because they are happy that father is doing the right thing with care and love because that is the only way we can change them.

I can’t fight them with bitterness, hatred, jealousy and all this will bring distraction to my province and I cannot do with that so I am making a big difference in my town. This is a challenge to every one of us and we can do it if we do it diligently with the love and care by putting them to school and giving them another chance in life.

My biggest request to the Government is to put some money into National Planning. The Prime Minister and other relevant ministers should sit and the Minister for Justice should take stock of all these things like how much money should go to the Law & Justice Sector to train new judges, how much to Police and Defence and how much is going to the new Court complex. Let us give a chance to the youths of this country. That is my challenge.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr JELTA WONG** (Gazelle – Minister for Police) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I won’t be long, I just want to carry on from everyone’s comments here today. I want to thank the Attorney-General for his Paper.

The Governor of Madang in his debate mentioned education or the mindset.

Just an advice to our Attorney-General we do not need people from outside to come and tell us how our youths are. You only have to look in this House and you can see that not many of us were born with a spoon in our mouths. Most of us have walked the streets, most of us have caught the bus, and most of us have gone hungry on days and we have experienced being youths.

Before I became a Member of Parliament in my previous years in Lae City, I used to clean up the city with the youths. After a couple of months putting youths into prison, we figured out that putting the youths into prison created nothing for them afterwards. The ‘boys town’ has been around for so long and what has it given to these youths.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the problem is within ourselves, we tend to think that because we have come this far, we forget that this same youths are doing what we used to do 20 years ago.

So, if we can tap into some of these realistic things that happened to the youths when we were there maybe we will come up with some answers. I do not like to say that it is all parents

fault because some of our parents are good and they try to teach us to be responsible and to be better people at very minimal costs.

Some days when a mother does not have any money to give her child to go to school to buy lunch, that boy will go to school and sit on the side and watch the other children having lunch and he will ask himself what am I doing here and that is when that youth decides to change his mindset.

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Some of us never went to higher education to university because of circumstances beyond our control but we learnt to live with it and made up our minds to succeed in everything that we do and this is the type of message we drive to the youths. Some of us here have been down that road and we can talk to these youths about experiences before.

These are just a few remarks that I wanted to share with you all, thank you.

**Mr ELIAS KAPAVORE** (Pomio – Minister for Public Services) – Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I also want to thank the Minister for Attorney General for this important report that he presented and in support of this report I would like to make a few remarks.

Mr Speaker, we need to revisit some of the school curriculums to ensure we instil some of these values in our children starting from primary school all the way up to university.

We must talk to them about discipline so they become good citizens of our country. How do they become good disciplined citizens of this country? They need to take part in some of the school programs such as scripture union and Christian fellowship in colleges. I have seen some of the students who have taken part in this important programs are contributing meaningfully today as citizens of this country.

If we can emphasise a lot on good values such as discipline and good attitude in every child then we can see some changes in our community.

Mr Deputy Speaker, one person alone cannot make it happen it needs support from us all Members.

In the public service, we are planning to conduct a program called values oriented public service workforce, whereby some of the public servants who are fading away slowly from these good values and principles can refresh themselves so that they too can contribute meaningfully to the public sector.

If we can do this with the full support from the Department of Community Development through these religious activities in all sectors of schools around the country then we truly see some positive results from kids.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

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**Mr SOROI EOE** (Kikori – Minister for Religion, Youth and Community Development) – I also take this opportunity to thank the Minister for Justice and Attorney General for bringing this very important paper to the Floor of Parliament.

I concur with the very important comments raised by the former speakers. Youth is the biggest challenge this country faces. How we address the issue will determine the future of our country. This is the building block of any nation.

Mr Deputy Speaker, at this juncture, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Prime Minister and the Government for addressing this issue in various interventions. There are several interventions that are going on in so far as addressing this issue in all sectors of Government.

What type of intervention can we make before youth is sentenced to jail? I think this is an ongoing discussion between the Attorney General and myself and other ministers in addressing this important issue.

I think it is important for me to give some age bracket one must be to be recognised as youth. As far as UN is concerned, the age bracket for a youth is about 12 to 38 years of age. Sometimes we have people who marry young and so both the parents and children are in the youth age group.

However, for juveniles in many areas it is beyond that definition. This is about young children walking the streets like in Port Moresby. This is one of the areas that I am quite concerned and my ministry has been addressing. There has been a lot of government interventions particularly education.

I want to thank the Education Ministry particularly for taking the issue of civic studies as a core subject which can be assessed that was presented by the Secretary for Education three weeks ago. I think the Minister for Education will agree with me that this is an important intervention that the Government is making. Next year onwards, religious studies will be assessable core subject in the school systems.

I would also like to make mention that my ministry has been looking at all this issues intervention in so far as youth is concerned. Since last year, we have organised workshops to gauge views of schools.

For example, there was a workshop that we organised and invited all the high school students to come and talk about themselves and the problems they face in schools. Why are there fights, drugs, homebrew, pornography, and so many others? Based on that we made recommendations to various institutions including the Department of Education. What is transpiring is because of what happened but these issues have been in the air for some time. That intervention is a very important one to support the call that parents have a very important role to play in the future of their children.

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Mr Deputy Speaker, I take note of what has been said because some of these issues are directly affecting my ministry. One programme that we have begun is to bring my ministry's responsibilities to district levels. I think I made reference to that in the beginning of this year. So far about six or seven members and ministers have indicated interest to go with me, particularly bringing all these issues, including youth issues to the districts. And to see how we can bring government policies to bear upon 80 per cent of our people who are out in the districts and provinces and in that is the very issue that the governor was raising.

There should be a centre we can build for our children, a youth centre or a juvenile centre or but there should be one administered by government officers. It can be a place where they can have various training, mindsets changed or, including providing some sort of skills for employment purposes.

This is one thing that my ministry has. And I'd like to, on behalf of my ministry, thank the Prime Minister who has spearheaded that in his Pangia District, the Planning Minister, Minister for Attorney-General and Justice, Health Minister, Higher Education Minister and the Police Minister who has actually come on board with a bit of money, about half a million to get things organised on the ground.

So this is one intervention that my ministry would like to use to address this very issue that we are talking about. I think before we can put our child to jail there should be early intervention programmes. I think that's what the Government is doing and there are various programmes that we have done in various sectors. So, that's the way that we are looking at and working closely with Attorney-General insofar as addressing this youth issue that we are talking about.

Mr Deputy Speaker I made mention in the last sitting that I was to bring to this Parliament a national youth framework. I didn't do that in the last session because of my ill health but I hope that I'll bring it in this session so that it will give some clarity insofar as youth is concerned and how we are to address youth, particularly inter-sectoral, inter disciplinary approach to addressing the youth.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

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

That the Parliament take note of the paper and the debate be deferred to a later date.

Debate adjourned.

### **MOTION BY LEAVE**

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

Leave granted.

### **LEAVE OF ABSENCE – Mr JOE KULI**

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

That so much of the *Standing Orders* be suspended as would prevent leave of absence being granted to Mr Joe Kuli, Vice Minister for Commerce, Trade and Industry for the duration of this meeting.

**Mr SPEAKER** – Honourable Members, I have a statement here. I wish to inform all Members that there will be a presentation between the Department of Communication, Information and Technology and Energy and the Department of Community Development at the State Function Room at 12.30 p.m. today. This relates to the revitalisation of the Government Talkback Show through the *NBC* Radio Network. All Members of Parliament are invited to attend.

## ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parliament do now adjourn.

The Parliament adjourned at 1.05 p.m..